TRAINING THE BIRD DOG.

BY — C. B WHITFORD

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TRAINING THE BIRD DOG

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Champion Jessie Rodfield's Count Gladstone.

TRAINING THE BIRD DOG

BY

C. B. WHITFORD

ILLUSTRATED

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PREFACE

WHEN a man has written a book wherein he attempts to instruct his readers, it is fitting that he make known something of his qualification for the work he has undertaken.

It should go without saying that no one is fully qualified to write a text-book on dog breaking who is not a good breaker himself. But there are many good breakers who are not qualified to write a book on dog breaking, for they have not the faculty for writing that which they know, writing being something of a trade in itself, just as dog breaking is. So, too, there are plenty of men who can write but who possess little or no practical knowledge of the art of breaking the setter and pointer. Such men can take the experiences and work of others and produce a readable book, but such a book will lack vitality and consistency.

It happens that nearly all, if not quite all, of the American authors on dog breaking know very little of the subject, not one of them having ever

won a field trial, although some of them have tried with dogs of the very best natural qualities. When a man, after many attempts with the best of dogs under the most favorable circumstances, fails to develop one of these dogs sufficiently to win a place or even have his dog called up for a second trial, such a man proves his incompetency to give instructions to others on dog breaking. Men of that class write books by adaptation. They take the creations of others and pass them off for their own.

For my part, all that is contained in this book is my own as much as such a thing is possible. I have neither stolen nor borrowed a line from any man's book, although there are many things in this book that have been common property since dog breaking began.

As early as 1874, and during the years 1875 and 1876, I wrote for Arnold Burger's book and for the *Chicago Field* my system of dog breaking. At later periods I wrote still more upon the subject, and now, after carefully considering all that I have previously written and after having studied the methods of our best handlers, I have put my mature reflections in book form, having had occasion to revise some of my earlier views and add the result of new experiences.

It will be found that many of the principles of breaking set forth in this book appear in books already before the public. That is because the authors took them from my previous writings. They were contained in them but are not to be found in print antedating their publication by me. This is of small consequence, except that I deem it important that my readers shall know I am not guilty of plagiarism. I am using what is my own. Those who have used my creation without credit may settle with their own conscience.

In order to make it plain that the method of breaking herein advocated is thoroughly practical, I will add for the benefit of my readers that I broke dogs under this system for years and was successful at field trials during the years I ran dogs in these public events.

In 1876, at the Memphis Field Trial, I won three out of the four stakes with four dogs. At this meeting three prizes of twenty-five dollars each were offered for the best-broken dogs. I won the prize for the best all-age dog with Adams Drake and the brace prize with Drake and the Red Irish Setter Erin. Both these dogs were broken by me after they had been discarded by other handlers. The breaker's prize in the puppy stakes was won by Captain Patrick Henry, an amateur breaker,

who broke his dog from the articles I had published on breaking. Among other dogs I won with were Bow, Faust, Berkly, Bruce Gladstone, Marchioness, Peg and Gladstone. With the latter dog I won on Robbins Island, at the Eastern Field Trial Club's trials, in a twenty-six dog stake.

It appears to me in view of the facts recited I need offer no apology for writing this book.

C. B. W.

Elmhurst, Ill.

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TRAINING THE BIRD DOG

CHAPTER I

THE GENIUS OF BREAKING

DOG breaking is not all breaking. In fact the teaching of tricks and the breaking a dog of faults is the simple part of breaking the setter or pointer. There is a technic in dog breaking and there is a genius, too, just as there is technic and art in drawing. We may learn that under certain circumstances we are to treat a dog in a certain manner for a particular offense, and then we may learn that by doing certain things we may encourage or force the dog to do our bidding. All these things which have to do with what may be termed the mechanical part of breaking are well enough in their way. They go to form the technic of breaking. But if we have nothing else to bring to our aid we will turn out a machine dog, and a stupid one at that. The dog which knows all the commands and has been forced into obeying them will lack that confidence in himself which is essential in a good dog. He will be concerned chiefly with watching and wait-

ing for signals when he should be hunting for birds. He will be a finished product so far as obedience is concerned, but he will be a very poor bird dog. Like the picture that is good only in technic he will stand as the work of science without showing he is a product of a genius of breaking.

Dog breaking as applied to setters and pointers is in its best sense the development of the field dog. The tricks of breaking are incidental to the main idea. They are the means by which the developments are aided. In this process of development the setter or pointer is likely to acquire faults that are a serious menace to his usefulness. These faults must necessarily be eradicated, and for each there are conventional methods. When these fail the genius of the breaker must assert itself by inventing a method for the particular case in hand.

The prevailing notion among men who have had little actual experience with bird dogs is that the dog is taken afield after being yard broken, and taught to do the things he should do by rule, and broken from doing the things he should not do by other rules. The real way, however, to break a dog and do it well is quite different from such methods. We cannot make a good setter or

pointer by simply breaking him of his faults and teaching him the methods of finding and handling birds. If we could we might take any dog and by the same process make a bird dog of him. What the good breaker does is to develop all the good qualities that are instinctive with pointers and setters and teach him good manners. Ranging and the love of hunting for birds are instinctive with the setter or pointer. Turn one of these dogs out in a large field and he will, in obedience to his natural hunting quality, range differently from other dogs. He has no knowledge of what he is looking for, but is prompted to race over the fields in response to his instinct. He loves to run, and once he gets going other instincts assert themselves and he begins to hunt; little birds flitting about attract his attention, and he enjoys chasing them. He has the pointing instinct but knows nothing of it. At the proper time this will make itself manifest. The dog likes the pointing feeling, and once he has got his pointing instinct in operation he will want to feel the pleasure of it all again.

These are elementary operations of his essential instincts. The good breaker knows he has them and he has a good idea how they will begin to assert themselves. He does not fret because his dog will not make perfect use of his natural powers,

but lets them come along in the most natural way. He knows that as the instincts are brought more and more into use the dog's knowledge of their application develops. The dog becomes accustomed to the working of his instincts, and then they operate more surely and with greater smoothness. Meanwhile the dog's enthusiasm has increased and he goes about his work with a desirable vim.

To be sure he has contracted a lot of little faults. These do not worry the good breaker. The novice might take the dog in hand at once and proceed to correct all his small faults and direct him as to how he should hunt. The effect would be to set the dog back many days or weeks or, possibly, if harsh measures were used, all the hunt would be taken out of the dog for a full season.

The wise breaker wishes first of all to see his dog show a desire to find birds. He likes to see him hunt, and in the first stages of breaking he expects his dog to run wild, chase birds and refuse to pay any attention to the whistle or words of command. But the dog is developing. That is important. His instincts are working; he is geting some knowledge of himself as well as of birds. With a free head his whole mind is on the work that gives him such pleasure, and he has a zest for it

all which it will be difficult to destroy. He is developing instinctively, intellectually and physically. And that is what the good breaker desires him to do. Just develop without let or hindrance for a few days.

At the same time the breaker has not been altogether idle. He has had a good opportunity to study his dog. Perhaps he has been able to determine that his dog is a bold, courageous fellow, with sharp instincts and a tendency to develop rapidly. He may have determined also that his dog has a powerful and very discriminating nose, good natural judgment and a keen intellect. Having learned this much he will know what course to pursue, calculated to lead to his best possible development.

All this could not have been learned had there been any serious attempt at breaking. In this early stage of the dog's development there has been little or no attempt at directing the dog's movements or checking him for his faults.

What the wise breaker tries to learn in the very beginning of his developing process is as much of the dog's nature as possible. He knows what instincts to look for in his dog, and he has a fair idea of the dog's intelligence before he begins to develop him in the field, but it is only in actual field

work that he can get a fair measure of the good and the bad that is in his dog.

Some dogs are bold and enthusiastic, yet timid. And these dogs, it may be noted, are the easiest to break and the most reliable performers when thoroughly developed. The beginner is likely to be deceived by a dog of this character, for he will be almost certain to interpret his boldness and enthusiasm as being born of high courage. While these qualities are generally correlated they do not always appear together, and it is well for the breaker to make sure of the fact before he goes very far in his breaking, as a bold, enthusiastic dog with a timid nature needs different treatment from the high couraged dog.

Then there are dogs which are bold enough and have plenty of courage but whose instincts are sluggish. They may be very sharp and work with great accuracy and delicacy once they get well started, but they are slow to start and need a great deal of coaxing in the early stages of their breaking. It is a very bad plan to attempt to do much in the way of breaking such dogs until they wake up. Sometimes dogs of this class will hunt diligently and enjoy their work to the fullest extent, but they do not know how to point. They have the pointing feeling very strong and appear to try very

hard to give it expression. For some reason they fail. The breaker's genius, if he has any, either natural or cultivated, will prompt him as to the course to pursue. Sometimes such dogs can be helped in various ways, but nothing in the nature of force is to be used until they get control of their pointing instinct so they can go quickly into a point the instant they feel the scent of birds.

Perhaps during the first period of development the breaker has learned that his dog is timid and lacking in hunting enthusiasm. He will map out a plan of development for this dog that will just fit his case, but would not do for some other dog. He knows the dog has not been cowed by bad treatment, but is naturally timid and will need such treatment as will arouse his enthusiasm and latent hunting instincts.

Here is where the breaker's genius finds full play. If the breaker understands setter and pointer psychology well he knows that there is such a peculiar relationship among all the hunting instincts, that to arouse one means the disturbance of others. The genius knows his dog's weakest and strongest points and instead of following what might appear the most natural and logical course he does the very opposite thing. He works on the strongest or most assertive instinct. This will be

easier to arouse, and once that one, whichever it may be, is encouraged into action, the weaker ones will be influenced and assert themselves as a natural psychological sequence. But how to bring even the strongest of a weak set of instincts into action is a part of the breaker's art, and to acquire this art the breaker must do something more than cram himself with the conventional tricks of breaking.

Genius in dog breaking is the same as genius for other work. The genius, of course, likes to think that his is a gift of nature pure and simple. But alas! the world is full of geniuses of this kind who have no pillow of their own on which to lay their heads. They have the aptitude for certain high-class work. They have in fact the spark of genius but refuse to cultivate and nurse it into a practical flame. Genius that has any force worth talking about comes as the result of severe application. Some men have a natural liking for bird dogs and an aptness for handling them. They naturally have a genius for breaking. But if they do not cultivate this genius it will not amount to much. The man who likes bird dogs and has any aptitude for breaking them can make a genius of himself by close study and hard work in the field.

It will be found that there is a wonderful lot to

be learned of the setter and pointer, and the more familiar a man becomes with the physical and psychical possibilities of the bird dog the better will be his chances of success as a breaker. Mere experience is not alone enough. There are any number of breakers in this country who were fairly good breakers ten years ago; they are no better to-day. They have not studied the setter and pointer closely enough and have not developed any invention in the matter of breaking.

The real genius is never at a loss to find ways and means for the accomplishment of his purpose. If one plan, that has hitherto proven good, fails, he has another, and, this failing, he invents a new method. He can, because of his genius for the work, put just a little more class in all the dog's work. He can get out of the dog all there is in him and then he can help him to some more.

There is a great difference between the brilliant performance of a highly polished bird dog broken and handled by a genius, and the rough, slovenly work of a dog broken by a man who knows only the technic of dog breaking. The breaker who would be highly successful must cultivate the genius of dog breaking.

CHAPTER II

THE BREAKER'S IDEAL

ANYONE who hopes to successfully break a setter or pointer must have a high ideal of the perfectly broken field dog. It appears simple enough to conceive of all that is possible for a bird dog to do, yet it requires more than a good imagination and a superficial knowledge of setter and pointer to set up a proper standard of excellence. The ideal toward which the breaker should always strive, should be built out of possibilities and probabilities. The breaker must know the capabilities of the bird dog. He must know the limitations of his physical and psychical powers. He must know what requirements to make of the dog. Out of this material he must know how to build an ideal.

Most men who are not expert breakers are confident they know what work they should require of their dog. What they desire to know is how to break their dog so that he will perform as they think he should perform. The truth is that few

such men have a proper ideal, and when they have learned all the tricks of breaking they are still unable to turn out a well-broken dog. The experts, too, are woefully lacking in their conception of a perfect performance. They have a general idea of how the dog should range and find birds, but when it comes to the quality of the work in detail their ideals are not as high as they should be. Their dogs fall short of brilliancy in performance chiefly because the breaker himself has not been able to conceive of the better things of which his dog is capable.

It is therefore well to say to the beginner, do not be in a hurry to take your young dog out and give him his first lesson. Better spend some time at home fixing up an ideal. Get all the detail of the finished dog's work well fixed in your mind, or, rather, have a good mental picture of what you would have your dog when his education is completed.

There need be no fear of the beginner creating too high an ideal, nor is it to be expected the dog will reach that degree of perfection his breaker has marked out for him. But it is better to approach a high ideal than it is to fall short of a meaner model. Besides it is very little more trouble to break a dog well than it is to turn out a slovenly

performer. The point of importance is for the breaker to know what he is aiming at and then to know how to reach the mark.

The highest ideal sportsman's dog is, of course, one that has a complete knowledge of the work he is called upon to do, and will do that work without any direction from his handler. It is his duty to know, when cast off in an open quail country, that he is to find a covey of birds in the shortest possible time. He can tell at a glance which way he is to go. The nearest ground that appears likely to hold birds is the place he will make for at once, and he will go at the very top of his speed. Having searched out the first likely looking place he will gallop to the next. Meanwhile he has taken pains to inform himself of the general course of the sportsman, so that if he happens to cast a little too far to the right or left of the course, he knows where to turn back on the course and get his handler in view. The handler, too, knows that if his dog has gone out of sight just about where to look for him when he comes around on his beat. And so the perfect ranging setter or pointer beats out all the likely ground to the right and left of the course the sportsman takes.

The ideal ranging dog does not in our quail countries quarter his ground in anything like per-

fect lines. He knows the places that are likely to be barren of birds and skips them, or at most gallops over them without expending much of his searching energy. But when he strikes a small piece of ground that looks good he covers it pretty well before passing on to the next likely looking place.

When he finds a covey of birds he waits until the sportsman comes up. He drops to shot or wing when the birds are flushed, and marks down, if possible, the scattered covey when it goes down.

Taken to the single birds the perfect dog slackens his pace, shortens his range and quarters his ground regularly.

How to teach the dog to range and act in this manner is the part the breaker must do. But he must know first how a dog should range and behave on birds.

The perfect setter or pointer never makes a false point. The false pointing dog is the result of the breaker's poor work. Neither will a perfectly broken dog point foot scents. The dog with a fair nose can discriminate between foot scent, body scent, dead and wounded birds with the speed of a thought. Perfectly broken dogs pass over foot scents, roosts, etc., and point only the body scent. The dog may check his pace at a good foot scent, or may even draw up to the body

scent by the aid of the foot scent. But those dogs which are stanch, on even hot foot scents, are not properly broken.

Retrieving dogs are not perfectly broken when they fetch a bird with a tender mouth and deliver it into the sportsman's hand. They must mark the fallen bird, and to order go to it with a rush, returning to the breaker at a gallop.

All the work the perfectly broken setter or pointer does must be done in a bold, spirited manner, born of knowledge the breaking has helped him acquire, and it is just this spirit he puts into his work; just that certainty with which he acts in a proper way that marks the great difference between the brilliant dog and the slovenly dog.

Of course the breaker cannot make a star performer of a dull dog, but he can help him, and when he gets a good dog he can bring out all his good qualities if he handles him properly, or he can make a slovenly workman of him by improper handling. If he knows just what kind of a performer he wishes to make of him; if he has the right ideal and develops him properly, it will not be his fault if the dog does not turn out well.

The dog which is always obedient and works to order is not the ideal field dog. He needs too much handling. The ideal dog does the things

he should do without orders, because he has learned what is proper to do, and has been so well developed that he will do his duty without orders. He knows, also, what not to do and for that reason will not need constant checking for faults committed.

With the merely obedient dog a handler can make a very pretty exhibition of breaking. But his standard is a false one. He may take the dog in the open and have him drop instantly to shot while going at a full gallop. He may bring him to toho or have him drop to order promptly. The dog may fetch almost anything he can carry; he may quarter, walk quietly to heel, and in fact perform all the tricks that a bird dog well broken is supposed to know.

Take this same dog on birds and he may prove a complete failure. His mind will be on the breaker. He will be constantly watching for signs and listening for orders. He has little notion of hunting for birds, but with him the paramount business is obeying orders. He cannot put his mind on the more important work of finding birds because he does not know how. Those natural qualities which he should assert have not been developed. As a trick dog he is a great success. As a bird dog he is a failure.

The breaking such a dog may have had, so far as he has been taught obedience and the performance of his tricks, is well enough in its way. But the breaker has not had sufficient knowledge of his business to apply the breaking. He has failed to understand the genius of developing the natural qualities of his dog.

The tricks the dog is taught during the process of breaking are of little use in themselves in the developed dog. Their chief function is to aid the breaker in his all-important plan of development. A green dog cannot well be developed until he knows something of discipline and learns some little tricks. After he is developed he will not need these little tricks. He will know what to do and will do it cheerfully.

In short, the breaker's ideal should be a dog which has his keen instinctive qualities governed by an intelligence developed by good handling. He acquires knowledge through his breaker's methods by which he can make the best possible use of his natural qualities.

CHAPTER III

BREAKING THE BREAKER

BEFORE laying down any rules for breaking the dog, let us break the breaker, or at least let us make a serious attempt in that direction. The first effort will be pretty much of a failure, for it is much more difficult to break the breaker than it is to break his dog. He simply will not be broken. He will rebel at the insinuation that he needs much serious attention before he attempts to break his dog. He only wants to be told how to break his dog. He feels he is wise enough and able enough to follow instructions if they are plain. But he is mistaken. He will not be either able or willing to follow some of the simple instructions he will be given. In the first place he will not know just how to go about his work in order to get the best results, and then he will fail to see the force of some of the simple instructions he will be given that are necessary to the accomplishment of the best results.

More than this, the beginner will find that he has a set of nerves he never knew he possessed

until his aggravating dog started them in operation. He may be sure that he will not lose his temper, but his temper will get the better of his judgment and the dog will get the worst of it. Every day he is out with his young dog he will attempt against good advice to hurry the development of the dog, with the result that the animal will be injured and the trainer's disposition rasped. He will no sooner discover that he has made one error than he will fall into another. And this will go on through all the various stages of development. In the end he will get the notion well fixed in his head that he has made many kinds of a fool of himself while trying to break his dog. He will reflect and be benefited. He will be able at his next attempt to get control of himself and so steer clear of the troubles he got into just because he did not know himself as well as he thought he did.

The chief difficulty with the beginner, and it is a grievous fault with many old breakers, is that they expect too much of their dog. They are certain the dog is simply willful, and they are sure that the shortest route to a cure for this evil is by the liberal use of the lash. Dogs are miles away from mankind in the matter of intelligence and a knowledge of right and wrong, yet there are

breakers who ask more of a yearling dog than is expected of a two-year-old child. When the young dog bolts headlong into a covey of birds that he has pointed, the question of right or wrong never enters his head. He just likes the fun of rooting up the birds. Of course he must be broken of such a fault, but it is not well to be in a hurry to lash a knowledge of his error into his head. It hurts the dog to begin with; then it hurts the man who uses the whip, for he will be sure to say, after he has punished the dog several times, that the dog knows better. The dog knows he has been lashed for doing something that pleased him, but he does not quite understand the handler's point of view. And the breaker gets very angry and loses control of his temper just because the poor dog does not mind when he thinks he should mind. Of course he is certain the dog knows better and he fights the battle out on that line. In the course of time the dog associates the birds with the whip, and the recollection of the lashings frightens him and he slinks away, perhaps a confirmed blinker. If the breaker happens to be real angry he may give the poor frightened dog a beating for blinking, then the dog gets all mixed up in his young, weak mind and quits the hunting game entirely.

It is very trying, on a hot day in September on

the prairies, to have your young dog point a covey of prairie chickens, and then just as you get almost within reach of him, gallop into the birds and chase them until he has all but run himself off his feet. You cannot catch the dog, you cannot turn him with the whistle, and he is deaf to your loudest yellings. When a man chases his racing dog in the hot sun, blowing the whistle and yelling at the same time, he soon gets up a good flow of perspiration, and feels a want of breath that is all very trying to his nerves. Of course the dog is the cause of his uncomfortableness, and that dog would suffer if he had him. But he cannot get him, and that increases his anger. However, when he does catch the dog, the dog catches the whip.

Now the poor dog was simply enjoying himself. He did not know any better than to put up the birds and chase them any more than he knew what he got such an awful licking for. He got thrashed because his handler was angry. No good was accomplished; much harm was done.

The only thing for a breaker to do under such circumstances is to sit down and calm himself. The dog will come back, and if he is not punished, dog and master will continue to be good friends, and later on the handler may have a check line on

the dog and get to him just as he is about to break into the covey. Then he may lash him soundly to some purpose, for he has caught him in the very act.

The new breaker will need to school himself for some time before he can sit quietly and see his dog rioting among birds. He will find a great many occasions when he will feel that it would do him a lot of good to lick his dog, even if it did the dog much harm. He cannot help feeling just that way. It is only natural that he should, but it is wise for him to choke down his wrath and think of the harm he may do his dog by giving way to his feelings. He must smile and look pleasant whenever he feels like taking it out on his poor dog. He must not let his dog see that he is angry, for sour looks will often frighten a dog as much as a sound thrashing will.

The breaker will find it very difficult to keep cool and appear unconcerned at times, but it will pay him well to cultivate the doing of this. He will find in the end that he has never lost much by refraining from whipping his dog when he thought he needed it, and he will learn, too, from experience, that many a thrashing he gave his dog only did him harm.

It is not only in the use of undue force that the

breaker should restrain himself, but he will need as well to study his dog and cultivate a knowledge that will enable him to tell when he is to apply force and when he is still to patiently wait until his dog is further developed. He will find that he will often be mistaken as to when the dog really knows about the work he is trying to do. Many things that will look simple to the breaker will lead him to think the dog should understand them after he has had ample opportunity to acquire the knowledge, and his impatience to proceed more rapidly will lead the breaker into grievous errors. The temptation to make more haste is greater than the breaker can withstand. What he really does is to permit the wish for better things to control his acts. If he knew himself better he would not do this. It is one of the many things he must learn about himself before he can hope to become a successful breaker.

Another and perhaps the most important matter in which the breaker should school himself, is that of anticipating what the dog will do. It takes a great deal of experience for a breaker to become proficient in this art. He must know his dog well and he must understand just what things dogs as a rule are likely to do under certain circumstances. He must know what the particular dog

he is breaking will be likely to do. Then he must cultivate a genius that will prompt him to devise means of preventing the doing of wrong and the encouraging of meritorious performance. If the breaker can anticipate a fault and be all ready to correct it instantly it is committed, he will make a much better impression on the dog than he would to wait until the fault has been committed. The most effective corrections are those which are made on the instant. Catching the dog in the very act and punishing him for his fault then and there is the kind of punishment that puts wisdom in the dog's head.

In this connection it may be pointed out that dogs are such creatures of habit that once they commit a fault, they fall naturally and easily into the same error when the chance to make it presents itself. And the more they commit a particular error the more difficult it is to break them of that fault. It is important, therefore, always to anticipate the dog and prevent, if possible, the commission of errors. Often this will tax the breaker's genius, but he must at least make an effort to nip all manner of faults in the very budding. Faults once committed can be cured, even after they have become habitual, but the curing of these faults are serious checks in the dog's progress. The

rule to follow is: Do as little breaking as possible. Try to encourage the dog to do the proper things and develop him as much as possible with the least amount of breaking.

As a final word to the breaker it may be said that he should so educate himself that he will know that it is always wise, when in doubt, to give the dog the benefit of that doubt. Not only should he know this, but he must have such complete control of his feelings as to give his knowledge effect. The breaker who spends much time in considering his own weaknesses will profit by his effort. Then the breaker can roam the fields with his dog two hours a day for several days, and can say to himself, "I have spent all this time and cannot see that I have accomplished anything. The dog is just where he was in his breaking several days ago, yet I am satisfied he has been developing."

There come times when it is absolutely necessary for the breaker to go afield with his dog and do nothing but let the dog develop. It is a trying ordeal for the breaker, but he must break himself to take kindly to this very disagreeable work. It is essential to good breaking.

CHAPTER IV

ANTICIPATION IN BREAKING

THE man who has a real genius for developing the bird dog will learn very quickly to anticipate his dog, and by doing so prevent him from doing the things he should not do. This means a great economy in breaking. After a dog has committed a fault, he will be likely to commit that same fault again under the same circumstances that surrounded the first commission. If the breaker can anticipate that fault in the beginning and check the dog before he can carry out his intention, the dog will be helped, and what is of more consequence he will not be hindered in his development by the corrective method necessary to cure the fault.

There is often a conflict of emotions in the dog. One intention that makes for doing the wrong thing, struggles with an intention to do what is desired. The experienced and studious breaker can read these intentions as the dog gives them emotional expression. Obviously if he can check

the one and encourage the other, substantial progress will be made in the development of the dog. He will soon get the dog out of the feeling of wrong intention and save the trouble of breaking him of a bad fault, to say nothing of the danger done in the breaking. He will be able through his power of anticipation to get the dog into right habits.

This matter of anticipation is carried all through the period of development and should in fact always be enforced after the dog is broken. The sportsman himself who would handle well a dog some one else had broken must have this faculty of anticipating his dog.

In the preliminary breaking, such as yard breaking and early lessons in the field, it will be found that the dog will sometimes get into the most awkward positions and do the most unreasonable things. They will make it more difficult for the breaker to teach the lesson he is trying to impress upon his pupil. These positions and awkward performances are not expressions of willfulness, although they may appear so; they are really accidents. The dog might have done the right thing, but it came more natural for him to do perhaps the worst. The breaker may be reasonably sure that these faults will become

habitual if the dog is encouraged to continue the errors. Knowing this, the breaker must anticipate his dog and so arrange his lesson that it will be easier for the dog to do differently. First, he should change the location, he should change directions as much as possible, and do whatever he can in a quiet, easy way to put the dog in surroundings that will help him, and then whatever the fault, make the correction just as the dog shows intention, rather than wait for the fault to go into full force. In this way the dog's intentions will be changed and the new way of doing things will become easy and habitual.

Even those faults that the dog acquires, which may be regarded as willful violation of orders or performance, are best corrected by anticipating them. The breaker need not wait for the fault to be committed. It is in the dog's head before it goes into force, and the breaker should know this. He should know the very instant the feeling to commit a fault takes possession of the dog. He should be able to understand its development into a full intention, and should know that following close upon the intention will come the commission of the fault itself.

All this feeling in the dog and the putting of his intention in force takes less time in the operation

than it does in the telling. Alacrity, therefore, is necessary in use of the preventive as well as quick, accurate judgment in the anticipation. The point is to know what the dog is likely to do next, to be ready to prevent the commission of the fault and to stop the dog before he puts his intention in force. On the other hand the breaker must know when the dog has a weak intention to do that which he should do, and he must be prepared to encourage the dog so that the intention will be strengthened and put into force. This is developing the good and repressing the wrong, through the medium of anticipation.

Needless to say it requires close study of the dog to do effective work of this kind. The breaker must have a good ideal and know his individual dog so well that his thoughts and the tendency of his instinctive operations will always be to him an open book. And the breaker will find in the end that the easiest way to develop his dog is to anticipate him.

It is not here intended to point out the particular instances in which the breaker is to anticipate his dog. The instruction here is general, and, as before noted, will apply throughout the breaking period. Specific cases will be dealt with in their proper place. The matter is of such importance,

however, that a general chapter on anticipation has been deemed advisable. When the breaker gets the full measure of skill in the matter of anticipating his dog, those who may see him handle in the field will regard him as a mind reader. And that is just what he should be. A reader of his dog's mind; a reader of the operation of the dog's instinctive forces; a reader of his dog's intentions.

Dogs which are handled much by anticipation learn to understand something of the handler's art. When they have a wrong intention they get the feeling with it that the handler knows their thoughts, divines their intention and is prepared to prevent the consummation of their intention. This of itself has a wonderful effect on the dog, and when he has been schooled a little, tends to prevent him from committing faults. Even when the handler is not near the dog he may have an intention of doing something he should not do. Along with this intention comes the thought of the corrective. It is so closely associated with the intention that it asserts itself with a great degree of certainty, and serves to check the dog from wrongdoing.

On the other hand, where a correction has been applied after the fault has been committed, the order of feelings is changed in the dog. First, he has the intention, then follows the commission of

the act, and with it is the correction. It is too late. The fault has been committed and the dog now knows he has done wrong, and in anticipation of punishment he drops his tail and puts on a general air of dejection. Dogs will boldly and cheerfully commit faults, keeping up their cheerfulness until the instant after the commission of the fault.

It is not always possible to anticipate the dog, and very often it is not practical to apply punishment to the mere intention. But whenever it is possible to do so, it will be found that it is the most effective method of curing a fault.

When the fault goes into force and there is no other means of correcting it, then the punishment must necessarily be applied after the fault has been committed. But more care is necessary in applying punishment at such times. As far as possible all faults and good intentions should be anticipated, and punishment applied for one and encouragement for the other.

CHAPTER V

REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS

TO the man who does not have a good understanding of canine intelligence and instincts, and is moreover a man who has not given much thought to educational systems generally, it appears a very simple process to break a dog. All that seems necessary to his mind is that the dog should first be shown what is wanted of him, and then when he does as he is required he is to be rewarded with kind words and good things to eat. When he refuses to do as he is directed to do, he is to be punished with harsh words and the lash.

According to the logic of this method the dog will soon learn that it is very unprofitable for him to do wrong and he will therefore not do wrong and thus avoid the consequence of wrongdoing. And on the other hand he will always be eager to do right and get a desirable reward.

But the dog has a view of his own about these

matters. To begin with, this yearling dog has not got all the reasoning powers necessary to the reaching of the conclusions his breaker may have reached. Then again he has a set of special instincts that are always prompting him to act in a certain way. He has his emotions that differ in kind and degree from those of the breaker. He has his Ego and desires to do those things that please him without any thought of whether or not they please anyone else. He is probably like the breaker in that he cannot understand why he cannot do as he would like to do. If he thinks about it at all the dog probably wonders why the breaker does not do his way, instead of forcing him, much against his wishes, into the breaker's way of doing things. The dog has less of a moral conscience than a boy, and the poor boy with his experience and superior intellect often has a hard time of it learning right from wrong—like some dogs, he has it beat into him. Meanwhile, he is cowed in spirit and dulled in the matter of understanding.

It used to be the fashion when some of us were boys for the parents to urge the school-teacher to give the boy a trouncing if he did not behave. In those days school-teachers did not as a rule, need such encouragement. Their rattans were always as good as their books, often better. When they

felt called upon to give the boy a good, sound thrashing they would send a note by the boy to his mother, advising her of the fact about a duty well performed. Then Johnny, poor little fellow, would get a licking from his mother, and sometimes he would get another when his father came home. Now all this did not make little Johnny a good boy. The little Johnny of to-day who never feels the schoolmaster's rod, and is seldom thrashed at home, is a better behaved boy than the little Johnny of thirty or forty years ago. We have learned to despise the logic of the rod in the schoolroom, and we have learned to spare the whip in dog breaking. We have learned that much of the supposed wisdom of a hard and fast system of rewards and punishments is a delusion and a snare. The rewards do no harm; they are in fact very useful; but to suppose that punishment for faults committed and rewards for work well done, constitute the sum of dog breaking, is a great mistake.

The whip and other instruments of punishment are essential to good breaking, but they must be used intelligently. To punish a dog some little time after he has committed a fault is not to make the dog understand why the punishment is administered. But to catch him in the very act and

then punish him is quite another matter. When this is repeated several times the dog comes to associate the act with the punishment. He does not think of the punishment until the intention to commit the wrong has taken form. Then the recollection of the punishment appears and he desists. In this way the dog soon learns the connection between the punishment and the act for which it is administered, and finally he may be punished for this particular act after it has been committed. He will know what the punishment is for and will take some pains in the future to avoid it.

Punishment in breaking is administered for the most part as a means of imparting knowledge. The connection between the act to be performed and the punishment must be so close that the two are associated clearly together. We use a check line in such a way, in teaching the dog to stop to order, that the order to stop, the check and the enforced stop all happen at the same time. The dog in this way gets the knowledge that he must stop to order. Having acquired this knowledge he finds that when he stops there is no punishment, but that there is prompt punishment when he hesitates to stop to order. In the end the stopping to order becomes habitual and all

connected with it is so plain that he finds obedience easy and profitable.

So with many other lessons the young dog is taught. Force is so applied that the desired thing to be done is the most natural thing to do, and once the habit of doing the desired thing is fairly well fixed, the force is no longer necessary. Later it may be used as a punishment for disobedience.

In the application of force as a means of imparting knowledge, the breaker must preserve a rather pleasant feeling, for if he allows himself to become angry the dog will be affected more with fear than he otherwise would, and when the application of the force has had its effect, the breaker should have a kind word for the dog and may pat and stroke him gently.

The breaker should be cautioned about being too lavish with his words of praise and petting processes. It he gets the habit of trying to coax the dog with soft words and pat him too much, the good effect of this system of rewards will be lost. When the dog has performed well, a very little kindly demonstration on the breaker's part will have a good effect; it will tend to show the dog that he has done his work satisfactorily, but it must not be overdone.

There is something of skill required in the mere laying of hands on a dog. Sudden strokes are not effective; they spring from a nervous energy and are not soothing to the dog. The hand should be laid on the dog slowly, and when it touches him the palm should be flat, the whole inside of the hand touching him gently at the same time. The stroking should be slowly done and the strokes should be long. The breaker's voice should be modulated to suit his action.

A pretense at good feeling for the dog will not do. The dog will not be fooled unless the breaker is very shrewd at hiding his true feelings. Sometimes it happens that the breaker is really provoked when he desired, for the dog's good, to reward him with kind words. At such times he must be careful to work up a feeling that will be in harmony with his acts. A mere mechanical operation without the proper feeling back of it will lose its intended effect.

Dogs are very keen judges of people when it comes to real and feigned feelings. Some people, who have no real liking for a dog, often feel it to be their duty to make much of their friend's dog. They get demonstrative and profess to have particularly high regard for the dog. The dog does not care for their show of good will. He goes

quietly away to some one else less demonstrative, but more sincere, and lays his head in that person's lap or rubs against his hand as though he would be patted.

The dog likes the association of people who are calm. Such people appear to have a soothing effect on the dog. When the breaker is of that disposition he makes his rewards in a way that pleases the dog. He does not shout Good Boy! Good Dog! in nervous, jerky tones, nor does he slap his head and sides with great energy. He says Good Boy! quietly, slowly, gently, and he smooths the dog's sides in the same manner. When he wishes to reward the dog with something more substantial than kind words, he does so in the same quiet, undemonstrative manner. A breaker of this kind can get a lot out of a dog at small cost. The dog likes him and has confidence in him. The breaker may be firm, but he is honest and gentle with it all. The dog gets in the way of enjoying the things his breaker likes, and that is a great help in breaking.

A dog likes to have the breaker look after his comfort. He feels he has been rewarded when the breaker puts him in the kennel and fixes his bed for him. He likes to be fed from the breaker's hand. Especially does he enjoy a nice little morsel

in the field when he is taken up from his work for a short rest.

All these little rewards tend to make the relationship of breaker and dog closer. The dog is helped by the attention.

CHAPTER VI

BEST AGE FOR BREAKING

IT is a very general opinion that a dog's breaking should be commenced when he is about six months old, and that dogs which have been allowed to run wild until they are two years old are past breaking. As a matter of fact more progress can be made with a two-year-old dog than with a six-months' old puppy. The young dog will, in a spirit of playfulness, show an aptitude for learning simple tricks when very little or no force is used and he will show an initiative in this respect. But when it comes to applying much force to the young dog, he quits and great difficulty will be found in getting him to take further interest in work necessary to his breaking. He may take hold for a time but he will be suspicious and give up when he gets a notion he is going to be forced. The young dog, necessarily, has little knowledge of things in general because he has not had the experience that comes with age.

The older dog, provided he has not been cowed, has the desire for work and the strength necessary for its performance. He is bolder and is not so easily frightened at a little application of force. He has the intelligence, too, for an understanding of the knowledge the breaker would impart. True, he will show more of the spirit of willfulness, but this is a much overrated fault in dogs. What appears to be willfulness is usually a condition due to fright or a lack of understanding.

The old adage, that "you cannot learn old dogs new tricks," is only a pretty epigram. Dogs which are not so old as to have become set in their way are just as easily taught as the youngster whose plastic nature appears to be better adapted to the breaker's molding process. The old dog has a nature already well developed in a natural way, and although he may carry his desire to do things too far, the difficulty is not really serious. He will do things, and that is of first importance. The good may be retained and developed while he may be broken of his undesirable performances. As between the very young dog and the two-year-old dog, the best breakers will choose the latter for a pupil.

The old dog has an initiative just as the puppy has. It is merely a difference in kind. The

puppy's initiative, that is, his desire to do something, is born of a spirit of playfulness. The mature dog has his instincts aged sufficiently to impel action. He may have some of the spirit of playfulness, too, but he will be more sober in his performances than the youngster.

Perhaps the most desirable age is about one year. If a dog of that age has been allowed to have his own way he is good material for the breaker to start with. But even a dog of this age must be handled carefully. He may be given a little yard breaking, and allowed to have an occasional romp in the field. But the more serious work of breaking should be postponed until he has added six months to his age.

The breaker will understand from this that the treatment that may be laid down as good for a mature dog is not the treatment that should be given a puppy less than a year old. Such a youngster must be taken among birds often, but for only a short time on each occasion. He may even be allowed to point. But no attempt should be made to force him. He may be given a little yard breaking; this must be of a mild nature. Indeed, all his first work should be given as much as possible in a spirit of playfulness. He should merely be prepared for work that is to come. If

he is well handled for two or three months he may pick up quite a lot of useful knowledge and get some idea of being obedient. The youngster is really to be nursed along until he gets the strength to stand breaking.

Because a dog is mature and is bold and courageous in his work the breaker is not to suppose he will remain so if he is rushed along in all of his work. Such a dog will stand a great deal of crowding, but if pushed too fast he will eventually let up. When he does that the breaker will find it very difficult to get him back in his old mood. He must not be given any more work than he can stand; in fact, he should not get quite that much. The early lessons may be carried along slowly while he is taking on new work. This is better than taking up one lesson at a time and making the dog perfect in that before something else is attempted. He may be given all the work he will stand, but he must be kept on edge at any cost, for when he quits or sulks he is not to be coaxed or forced into doing his work. He may be compelled to obey in some things but he cannot be forced to hunt, and when he will not hunt there is nothing to be done except to let him have his own way.

A notion often possesses inexperienced breakers

that by working a dog hard, working him down until he is very tired, he can be better handled. The idea is that he will not be so willful. The very contrary is true. The tired dog has no appetite for work; he wants to rest, or if he works it will be in a half-hearted way. His enthusiasm will be gone. At such times he learns to potter about when he should be working in earnest. He makes more errors when he is fagged out, and at such times he will be likely to resist his handler. His heart is not in the work, and instead of trying to do anything with him while he is in such condition, he should be given a good rest, and taken out again after he has become freshened up. A stale old dog is a nuisance in the field. A young unbroken dog which is stale is worse. Some wild runaway dogs, those that have formed a habit of bolting, may have some of the wire edge taken off by hard work. But even with such dogs this method is of doubtful value. It is well enough to give dogs that are over enthusiastic enough work to steady them. But they should not be worked stale.

The very general opinion as to the amount of work a dog can do is far from the fact. People talk about hunting their dogs every day, all day long for a week at a time, and marvel at a specially

prepared dog breaking down in a two-hour race at a field trial. And they read of dogs making two races in one afternoon, each less than of one hour duration. The report of the trial may show that the dog tired and did poor work in the latter part of his final race. This looks somewhat ridiculous to many people who hunt their dogs all day. They get the idea that their own dog is particularly good or that the field trial dog is of little account. If they would but put the two together they would soon learn the difference between the pace they had been accustomed to and field trial pace. While their dog was pottering around under foot at his all-day gait the field trial dog would be going at a full gallop, searching out the country for birds. It is the difference between a horse going at ten miles an hour and one going a single mile in about one-forty. The horse would burn up more energy in the short run than would be consumed in the long run.

Well seasoned dogs can hunt at a good pace for a half day at a time, in ordinary shooting. This means about four hours. But the dog is not going all the time as in a field trial. The sportsmen stop to rest occasionally, when the dog rests. During the four hours there are many rests for the dog. And this kind of work cannot be kept

up every day. Three half-days each week is all that any dog can well stand.

The dog that is being broken cannot stand that much. If he is given two hours a day for a week, it will be found that the work has sobered him down a great deal and he will feel the need of a few days' rest. Puppies, or dogs about one year old, should not have more than an hour's work a day. They may be kept out for two hours at a time, but there should be frequent let-ups during this time. The youngster should be given a little spurt and when he shows signs of tiring, should be taken up for a few minutes' rest.

If the dog is wild he may be kept at work longer than one which is not so, and after he has been steadied and brought under a little better subjection, he may be let out again in his pace by being given shorter spurts. The rule should be to work and break the dog at the highest possible pace.

CHAPTER VII

YARD BREAKING

ANY preliminary education, such as yard breaking, should be pursued always with reference to the ultimate use to which the dog is to be put. Having this view in mind the breaker need not hesitate to make his young dog master of numerous little tricks that are, in fact, useless in themselves. Many good breakers do practically no yard breaking, because they consider such work of no use to the dog in actual field work, and besides the loss of time spent in teaching what they hold to be a lot of useless tricks, they contend that the breaking has a tendency to take the spirit out of a young dog, or perhaps cow him badly.

In all this there is more than a grain of truth. Severe handling in the yard does take away a great deal of the dog's spirit that is badly needed when it comes to the more serious work of field breaking. This kind of yard breaking is not to be indulged in if the breaker would turn out a well-broken,

useful dog. The kind of yard breaking to be done is of that character that will tend to develop the dog's intelligence and make him better acquainted with his breaker, as well as to give him some ideas of obedience that will be of use in actual hunting. Many things that should be taught the young dog may seldom, if ever, be brought into use in the hunting field. But they will aid the breaker in bringing his dog to such a degree of perfection he will scarcely need orders of any kind.

It should be emphasized by repetition that the breaker must always bear in mind that he is not to attempt to perfect his dog in yard breaking for the mere sake of having him a good trick performer, but he must understand that the preliminary work is to be used later on as a help to the teaching of important work in the field. If the breaker is over zealous in teaching this preliminary work, he will be likely to impair the spirit and hunting enthusiasm of his dog. Perfection in the performance of yard tricks is not to be had at such cost. Patience, perseverance with a little genius and much common sense, will accomplish for the breaker all he desires without the use of harsh means, calculated to take away the dog's spirit and love of initiative. If the dog does not

do well one day for the breaker, he may do better the next day, and if perchance he does not do as well, the breaker need not lose heart, or his temper. The young dog needs time and practice. Some particular idea that the breaker is trying to get into his head may become very distasteful to the dog by repetition. It does not matter much; a little rest from that particular work will help along the other work, and that which has been put off may be taken up under more favorable circumstances another day.

In these preliminary lessons the breaker will make haste by proceeding slowly, for if he is cautious and not disposed to attempt to push his dog too fast, he will avoid doing some things that will set his dog back.

It must not be understood that the breaker will be expected to handle his dog successfully without the aid of the whip. On the contrary, force is a necessity. The dog which does things by being coaxed into doing them often takes a notion that he does not feel like doing what he is ordered to do. After he has been forced he will do the breaker's bidding promptly at all times. But he must do his work cheerfully, and this he will do if he is properly handled.

It is not altogether the amount of punishment

the dog receives that cows him and makes him go trembling and crawling through fear about his work; it is the manner in which the punishment is administered and the conditions under which it is given. The mood of the breaker, too, has much to do with the effect of punishment. An angry, boisterous man will frighten a dog worse with a light switch than a calm, quiet man will with a severe whip. And then a clever breaker, after he has had occasion to punish his dog, has many ways of making friends with him and arousing his spirits.

The young dog, before he has ever been hurt with the whip, should get well acquainted with its appearance. During all of his early lessons the breaker should have the whip in his hand and crack it occasionally. He should also lay it on the dog frequently in a playful mood. In this way he will easily avoid that disagreeable fault young dogs often get of being whip-shy. Even after the whip has been used the dog should see it and come to understand that it will not hurt him, unless his master chooses to use it. The whip may be used for a lead, the dog may be taught to fetch and carry it. The more he sees of it and the less the breaker uses it for punishment, the better it will be for the dog.

The whip-shy dog is afraid of the sight of the whip. He is not at ease when his handler has it in his hand, and when the handler speaks harshly to him while the whip is in sight, fear possesses him, and as a consequence he has no mind for the doing of what might be expected of him. The use of the whip is entirely lost on such a dog, except that it makes him worse.

It is worth while to note that there are breakers who can show dogs which are yard broken to perfection, and, although these same dogs have been worked long and hard in the field, they are of little value as field dogs. They will stop to order in the kennel yard, in the road or in the hunting field; they will drop to shot anywhere, retrieve anything from a piece of raw meat to a live bird. They turn promptly to whistle and, in fact, do all the things anyone could ask of a field dog, except find birds and handle them well.

Of course the breaker is certain his dog is well broken. But he is mistaken. He is not broken in the best meaning of the term. He has not been developed. When he is afield, instead of having his mind on the business of bird hunting, he is listening for the breaker's orders, and these must be constantly given. His yard breaking has not been properly applied in the field. The dog has

no confidence in himself and is constantly looking for orders from his handler.

It is dogs of this character, or rather dogs broken in this way, that set the average breaker against yard breaking. They prefer to put their dog down at once on game and work him until he develops into a good bird dog with bad manners.

The properly yard-broken dog which has had that kind of work properly applied in the hunting field, learns all there is for him to learn about finding and handling birds, and at the same time has good manners. His breaker does not order or direct him continually, for he does not need direction. He has been taught what to do and he does his work without direction, not as he might have chosen to do it in the first instance, but as his breaker chose to have him do it. The yard breaking, in which he has been well schooled, served as a tool with which to bring about the desired result. That accomplished, the breaker practically threw away the yard breaking and allowed the dog to do his work as he had been taught to do it.

Anyone not familiar with good breaking would say on seeing such a dog work without orders, going to the places he should go, keeping the handler's course without being directed, and in

fact, doing all he should do as a mere matter of course, that he had never been yard broken. One would be justified in saying that, for this good hunting, good mannered dog would show no signs of ever having been yard broken, and the ease with which his breaker would handle him would indicate that the dog was just naturally a wise, well-behaved dog.

This kind of a dog is produced by good yard breaking, and he cannot be brought to such a state of perfection without it. But the work must be done by a genius who knows in the first place how to perfect his dog in yard breaking, how to apply it to the actual work of the hunting field and how to drop it all, making it second nature for his thoroughly developed dog to use his instincts and intelligence to the best possible advantage, and yet be well mannered.

CHAPTER VIII

FIRST LESSONS

WHILE the breaker should proceed in an orderly fashion with this work of preparing his dog for the actual business of hunting birds, he is not to follow a hard and fast rule of teaching a succession of lessons. There are lessons to be taught in the preliminary breaking that are best taught in a certain order. But it is seldom that it is possible to follow this rule, because there are many things likely to happen that will disturb this well meant order. Sometimes the young dog does not take kindly to the particular lesson it is desired to teach. Again, he may become frightened at something in some way related to another lesson, or the breaker may have attempted to crowd him too fast in another instance and made the lesson distasteful. The wise breaker will note these difficulties as they appear, and will change the order of his lessons to suit the case.

The first real lesson of importance the young dog should be taught is to stop to the order, To-ho!

Some breakers use the word Whoa! Others use Heed! Neither is as good as To-ho for the simple reason that To-ho is easily and quickly spoken and is a very emphatic command. The word is pronounced Ter-ho! with the accent on the last syllable.

The best plan is to begin this lesson at feeding time. It is important that a quiet place in a yard, or room, be selected for the purpose, as it is well that the dog's attention be not attracted by strange noises, or the sight of moving objects.

When the food is set down, the dog should be held gently some four feet from it, the breaker saying softly, To-ho! To-ho! at the same time stroking the dog's head and side, and checking him lightly to restrain him. Nothing more should be attempted for several days than merely to accustom the dog to the word of command and the idea of restraint. After the dog has been held as well as may be at To-ho for about a minute, the order, Go on! should be given. At the instant this order is given the dog should be permitted to rush to his food.

A great many other orders are likely to be given the dog while he is being put through his first

exercises, but these should be omitted. What the breaker at this time should strive to do is to impress upon his pupil the meaning of the orders, To-ho! and Go on! If no other words than these are spoken the lesson will be more easily learned. In a very short time, if only kindness is used, the young dog will be pleased when the time arrives for him to go to the training place and take his lessons and food. He will quickly associate the place, the words of command and the food, and so long as the breaker keeps this association pleasant, he will prosper with his pupil.

At the end of several days the breaker will be disposed to think he has made no headway, and will be inclined to use a little force. He has, it is true, not made much progress, but he has made some. The dog has become accustomed to the words of command and has known something of standing when he wished to move forward. In due time he can be made to understand more clearly what is expected of him, and without being cowed, forced to obey. For a week, at least, this first lesson should be continued.

Let us pause for a moment in the consideration of this first real lesson and take up other preliminary work. For good reasons a number of lessons should be taken up at the same time that

the young dog is getting his first lesson. But these other lessons are to be regarded as of secondary importance, as well as being a help to the main lesson. For example, the dog should be taken afield for short runs every day. This work is calculated to arouse his spirits and give him a fondness for the breaker, which is very desirable.

All breaking tends to curb the spirits of the dog. Romping in the field has the very opposite effect. For that reason the main thought with the breaker should be, when he first takes the dog afield, to give the dog a good time. After he has become accustomed to a daily romp of an hour or two, something may be done in directing him how to range. But for the first work it is enough to let the dog have his own way.

Now let another preliminary lesson be taken up which we shall presently see is necessary to the better teaching of our main lesson, To-ho! The dog must be taught to lead. He must become accustomed to the collar and lead. This is a very simple lesson and should be taught while the dog is being taken to and from the field where he is given his daily romp.

At this time there should be no attempt at perfecting the dog in this lesson. That can be done

later. All that is necessary at present is that he will lead kindly.

A good stout collar that will not slip over the dog's head and a lead that will not break are essential. The dog may rebel at first, when an attempt is made to lead him, but the breaker is simply to walk along, keep his temper and do little or no talking. Two or three days are usually enough time for this work.

Meanwhile, the dog has been given his daily lessons in To-ho at the feeding hour, and has had his daily romp in the field. Nothing has been done to break his spirit. He is now in good shape to get more serious instructions in the To-ho lesson.

Take the dog to some quiet place where there is a small tree with no lower limbs, or, what is still better, set a stake firmly into the ground so that a stout cord may be fastened to it from four to five feet from the ground. Having attached the cord firmly to the post, make the other end fast to the dog's collar. This cord should be about eight or nine feet long. Now fasten a short, stout lead to his collar, holding the other end firmly in the hand.

Start with the dog from the post and go straight away at a brisk pace. When the end of the long

line is reached, say To-ho! sharply, and tighten the hand lead.

When the long line becomes tight, the breaker will, naturally, be just at the dog's head. He should take about two paces forward just as he gives the word of command, turn and face the dog with the right hand raised.

The dog is now in such a predicament he can neither go forward nor backward. The most he can do is to flounder around a little, or perhaps, lie down.

While all this is going on, the breaker should stand perfectly still, holding the lead firmly, and with hand still raised repeat the word of command in a slow, kindly tone. This is forcing the dog without cowing him.

Just here it may be wise to take the breaker in hand. In spite of the cautionary words already written, the breaker is quite likely to do something that he should not do, or he may have omitted something of importance.

For instance, when he comes to a stop and faces the dog, he must not shuffle about. He should stand perfectly still, well braced, so that he may hold the dog in place in spite of his struggles. When he raises his right hand he should hold it in place, and then he must not say, To-ho, Dash!

To-ho! Teaching to Stop.

(See page 60.)

To-ho! Teaching to Stand.

(See page 62.)

Good boy Dash! or anything of the sort. Simply To-ho softly, long-drawn and often. The impression he should try to force on the dog is that of motionlessness.

After about a minute the breaker should go to the dog, but he must not move suddenly. On the contrary, he should approach the dog as slowly and smoothly as a dog moves when drawing on birds. All the time the hand lead should be held tightly, the hand should be still raised and the word of command given. When the dog is reached he should be stroked gently and slowly, rather than patted.

The dog may now be led back to the post and the lesson repeated. If he behaves fairly well he may be given three or four lessons, after which he should be taken for a romp, for no matter how much care is exercised in the giving of this lesson, the dog will feel some effects of it, which may be worked off by a pleasant romp in the field.

As simple as this lesson appears, it is, nevertheless, more difficult in the giving than might be supposed. The breaker's manner will count for quite as much as the mechanics of the lesson, and it may not appeal to the breaker as forcefully as it should, yet he ought to know that dogs, particularly setters and pointers, are very emotional creatures.

The feeling of the breaker is often very readily caught by the dog. If the breaker will study himself and cultivate moods, he can help along his work of breaking materially. The dog will soon learn his various moods and copy them to a useful extent.

After the dog gets accustomed to the To-ho lesson at the post, and will stand kindly at the end of the cord, while the breaker holds him, the length of the lead may be increased to six or eight feet. When the dog has been led from the post and has stopped at the end of his cord, the breaker should back away from him slowly until he reaches the end of his lead—all the while he will repeat the command, To-ho! keeping his right hand raised. Before giving this lesson another stake should have been set at a point to be reached with the new lead. This lead he will fasten to the new stake, slowly, as he repeats the command, To-ho! Now let him face the dog and with uplifted hand approach him with cautious steps. Slowly and smoothly let him put his right hand down on the dog's head, and carrying it backward, smooth the dog's side. What he is trying to teach the dog particularly is to stand still. But the dog will move. At each movement of the dog, the breaker must check him sharply by uttering the command

quickly; at the same instant he must cease all his movements.

The breaker should not, at this time, attempt to get behind the dog, or on either side of him, as such movements would induce the dog to turn and face him. What he must aim at is to have the dog stand positively still, and during the first lessons this impression can best be made while facing the dog. The breaker may move forward and backward slowly, but he must always have the dog in one position, and do nothing to tempt him to turn.

When the dog will stand well with the lead fastened in front of him, the lead may be taken off, and he may be made to stand with the cord alone. After the lead has been taken off and the dog moves from his proper place, he must be taken back quickly and sharply ordered to To-ho!

In a very short time the dog will learn to keep his place, once he has been stopped, provided the breaker is in front of him. But so soon as the breaker attempts to move to either side of him, he will turn so as to have the breaker always squarely in front of him. He must now be accustomed to standing still, no matter what the breaker's position may be. The lead must again be brought into use and, as before, fastened to the

second stake. The breaker will now approach the dog and slowly get at his side. He must anticipate the dog, rather than wait for him to commit an error. He may know that the dog will turn his head toward him when he stands at the dog's haunches. He should be ready for him. With the left hand, if he stands at the dog's left side, he can push back his head, and with the right hand on the dog's right side, he can keep him pretty well in position. He should change sides, always trying to keep the dog headed straight away from him.

It will require several lessons before the dog will stand still, when the breaker's hands are not where they can be quickly used to check him. But when the dog will stand still for a moment, the breaker, stationed just behind him, may raise up to a standing position, ready, when the dog makes a move, to get both hands on him and set him right.

The habit of standing still, while the breaker is either ahead of him or close behind him, will soon get fixed in the dog. But when the breaker moves a few paces to one side he will find that it will be necessary to accustom the dog to this new position. Even when he stands well while the breaker is on one side, he will be uneasy when the breaker

To-ho! To Prevent Turning.

(See page 64.)

Retrieving. First Lesson.

(See page 101.)

changes to the other side. Finally, he will get the idea of standing still while the breaker is near him, no matter what his position. While the breaker is getting the dog accustomed to these various positions he will find it necessary to reprimand the dog and frequently put him back in his true position from which he has moved. This will be done gently, at first, but when the breaker finds the dog is beginning to understand what is required of him he may set him back in place less gently.

These lessons at the post will help his lessons given at feeding time, and the feeding hour lessons will help those at the post. The dog at feeding time must now be forced to stand at his food and move up only when ordered, and he should stand while the breaker is at either side in front or back of him.

It should be said that little attention is to be paid to the dog if he lie down instead of stand. Preferably, he should stand, and no harm will be done if he is raised occasionally to a standing position; only the breaker must not press the matter too far if the dog shows a disposition to resist.

So far, the breaker has been concerned only with having the dog stand, once he has been stopped. The next thing to do is to teach him to stop at command and stop instantly.

The dog should be started from the post for this lesson on the run, and the instant the end of the cord is reached, the command To-ho! should be given rather sharply. In order to have this lesson effective the breaker should mark the spot where the dog will be checked by the cord, so as to have the order to stop accompany the checking process. If the dog is brought up with a sudden jerk, so much the better, and if he gets a little punishment when he is stopped it will sharpen his wits without cowing him. The dog should be raced away from the post in different directions, and the faster he can be persuaded to go, the better. If the breaker times it just right he can give the command an instant before the dog reaches the end of his tether, and then with the lead he may give him a sharp jerk. Finally, the cord should be lengthened and shortened so that the dog may better come to associate the punishment, the stop and the command, rather than associate some particular place with the order.

What the dog must understand is that he is to brace himself and stop instantly at the word of command, and then to remain standing while the breaker moves about. He will be forced to stop by the check lines, and as soon as he gets the idea will stop without the check line at the word of com-

mand. Constant practice at the post, with and without the check lines, will make him perfect. He will know how to stop when ordered, and he will know he is to remain standing until he hears the order, Go on!

He may now be carried a little further at the feeding lessons. With a short check cord he may be taught to stop to order, to go on and to stop again. Finally, he may be taught to stop, and then draw at the word, "Steady"; stop again to order and go on to his feed.

All this should be accomplished in about a month, and if the breaker has done his work well the dog has not been injured. A good basis has been laid for further education and real development on game.

CHAPTER IX

COMING TO ORDER

HAVING provided himself with a good whistle and a light stout check cord with a snap that will neither break nor slip, the breaker can bring his dog to To-ho, step about ten feet ahead of him and then give the order, "Come in." In one hand he holds firmly the check line, which is fastened to the dog's collar. The instant he gives the order, "Come in," he should jerk the check line sharply, so as to get the dog to come to him as quickly as possible. When the dog comes the breaker should pat him gently, stroke his side and say, "Good dog!"

The idea is to have the dog start the very instant the order is given and run to the breaker as fast as he can. At first, he may lie down. That does not matter. And then when he is severely checked he will be disposed to turn and go in any but the right direction. When he does this he is to be checked again, the order, "Come in," being given

sharply each time he is checked. It will not take long for the dog to learn that he will run into punishment every time he attempts to run away, and that when he runs toward his handler he will escape punishment.

For a time the dog will be a little frightened at the punishment received from the check cord, but he will not be cowed if the handler is cunning in the use of it. There must be no words spoken, except those already mentioned, and the breaker must possess himself of a calm feeling and act in the most calm and matter-of-fact way. There is no occasion for him to get excited or angry. All he need do is to check the dog until he comes in, and then let the dog know by his manner and kind words that when he does come in he is safe.

After the dog gets a fair idea of what is wanted of him and will respond quickly to the slightest check, he may, and probably will, decide that he gave in to the breaker too easily. The breaker should watch for this change of heart on the part of the dog and even encourage it by lengthening the check line. When the dog rebels he can be severely checked. To make the lesson all the more forcible, the dog should be given a little slack line when he starts to run away, and may be allowed to make two or three jumps in the wrong

direction. Then the breaker will order him sharply to Come in! and at the same time give him a check severe enough to end him over. Before the dog can get to his feet he should again be ordered to Come in! while the breaker gives him another severe check. In all probability the dog will jump up quickly and run to his handler as fast as his legs will carry him, and when he gets there he will feel very foolish over the mistake he made of trying to run away. Most likely he will be good natured about it, and show his good feeling by wagging his tail. This condition is to be desired. The breaker wishes the dog to understand that he must obey orders quickly, and that he is safe from harm when he does so.

A long check cord should now be fastened to the dog's collar, and this he should be allowed to drag. When in the field, or, in fact, when the dog and breaker are out anywhere for a walk, the breaker should give him a few lessons whenever he is close enough to reach the cord. He should not, however, try to see what effect previous lessons had upon the dog by giving the order, except when he has the cord, for if he fail to bring the dog in with the mere order the dog's natural cunning will teach him a very undesirable lesson. Before such liberties are taken the dog must be well drilled with

the check cord and get the habit of coming instantly upon hearing the order.

If this lesson is well managed it will not be long before it will be almost impossible to check the dog after he has heard the order to come in, for he will start at once on a gallop and keep the line slack.

When the dog is thus far advanced, the whistle may be substituted for the words, Come in. All that will be necessary will be to whistle and at the same time check the dog lightly. It will not take him long to learn that the whistle means for him to come. When he gets the idea, the breaker may change from one to the other and then add the whip.

As before, the dog is stopped. The breaker holds the check cord in the left hand and a whip with a good cracker in the right. Now the breaker should give the order, Come in, at the same time he will crack the whip and check the dog. The whip will probably frighten the dog and he will either run to one side or try to run back after he has made a start toward the breaker. But the check cord and the order will bring him in.

At first it is well to crack the whip but once, and then lay it gently on the dog when he comes in. Later the whip should be cracked at the moment

the order is given, and cracked again when the dog starts to come in. If the dog should balk so as to make a repetition of the order necessary, the whip should be cracked when the order is given and when the check cord is applied. No matter how much the dog may struggle, the order, the check cord and the whip should be used, all at the same time. Finally, when the dog is brought in the whip may be cracked over him. If he shows any fright and attempts to run away, the whip should be cracked when he is brought back with the order and check cord. The handler should now make the dog follow him as he backs away, cracking the whip over him continually. In the end the dog may be made to come to the handler with a rush, either at the command, Come in, or a blast from the whistle or the crack of the whip.

At any time when the dog is lying about the kennel yard the breaker may get near him and try the effect of the order, the whistle and the whip. If he is in a small enclosure, he can take liberties with him that would be dangerous in the open, for if he refuse to obey the order promptly in a small enclosure, he can be forced into obedience.

The dog has now been taught the meaning of the order to come in, the use of the whistle, and instead of being frightened at the whip and run-

ning away from it, he comes toward it. When he has felt the force of the whip in the field he will remember these early lessons and have little of that runaway feeling that dogs have which have been improperly introduced to the whip. This early lesson with the whip will be of material assistance in teaching other lessons, besides it will have a general restraining effect. The dog, in later work, is not always to come in at the crack of the whip, but he may be threatened with it at times without the fear of his running away.

It happens that it is often necessary to teach lessons that are contradictory. This use of the whip, as directed here, is one of those lessons, for later on the dog will be forced to go out at the crack of the whip. This is to be borne in mind at this time, and in its final stages this lesson with the whip is to be used in connection with the whistle and the order to come in. That is, the dog is to be ordered to come in, and then threatened with the whip, so that he will obey the order promptly. The same thing is to be done with respect to the whistle.

While the breaker at this time is teaching the dog to come in at the sound of the whistle, later the whistle will be used to make the dog turn and come around from a cast. This will be coming in

in a measure, but the dog will learn at that time that he is merely to turn and cast to the other side of the field. He will know then from experience that if the handler wants him to come in close, he will bring him by repeating the blast on the whistle.

All these things are not to be taught at one time. For the present he need only be taught to come in close at the blast of the whistle, or the crack of the whip. This is necessary as a means of imparting further instructions, and in a general way the whistle and the whip will always have a tendency to bring the dog closer to the handler when used in connection with the order to come in.

CHAPTER X

COMING TO HEEL

IT is somewhat surprising that a lesson so simple as that of teaching a dog to come to heel should be so badly done by many good breakers. Their dogs come to heel in a slovenly manner after much ordering and scolding, and then run out again. Dogs properly taught to come to heel come promptly to order and stay there without provoking a quarrel with their handler.

Put the dog on a stout lead, order him sharply to come to "heel," check him severely with the check cord and hit him a cut with the whip. The dog is simply driven to the handler's heels.

At first the dog will not be expected to stay to heel after the handler has put him there. He will go out in front of the handler at once. The breaker should let him get nearly to the end of the short lead, or check cord, and then he should say sharply, Heel! at the same time checking him as before. It will not do to use the whip too

freely, but as he is either coming in, or is being pulled in with the left hand, the breaker may crack the whip behind him, or give him a light cut.

This process is not to be made a continuous one. The dog should be given a little time to collect his thoughts between trials. In the meantime, if he pull on the cord, or act badly in other ways, it will do no harm to let him have his head. Presently, when the breaker gets ready to let him out, check him and bring him to heel again, he can do so.

It does not matter that in his first walk little progress has been made. He has been given the idea, and after two or three more similar lessons he will get a good notion of what he is expected to do. When he shows that he begins to understand the order, the breaker should speak in lower tones, simply saying, Heel! If he does not run quickly to heel the breaker should apply the check and use the whip. Now when the dog attempts to go ahead of the breaker after having been forced to heel, the breaker will give him a smart cut with the whip, at the same time giving the order quietly, Heel! Perhaps the dog, after getting a cut with the whip, will hang back. The breaker will simply walk on and check him until he comes up to his proper place at heel.

These lessons in coming to heel need never be hurried, for the breaker will have plenty of time to make his dog perfect in this respect while walking to and from the hunting field.

When the dog acts well on a short check cord, or lead, the line should be lengthened. So far the dog has come to heel from a short distance in front of the breaker. Now he must be taught to come from a greater distance. This lesson learned, the breaker will drop the check cord entirely and force his dog to come to heel and stay there by the use of the whip.

When the order, Heel! is given the breaker should crack his whip and hurry the dog to his place at heel, and when he finds him getting away from his place after he has taken it, a smart cut of the whip should be given with the order, Heel!

In the course of a very short time the dog will understand that when he hears the order, Heel! he is to run to heel as quickly as possible. His experience with the check cord and whip has served to teach him that he must go to heel without hesitating whether he desires to do so or not. He knows the breaker has the means of compelling instant obedience and he will do what is required of him intelligently, and the things a dog does in

that way are likely to be done cheerfully, as they should be.

The breaker can now go a little further in his forcing system. When the dog breaks away from heel he may be caught and given several smart cuts of the whip, the order Heel! accompanying each stroke of the lash. The dog, in such a case as this, knows precisely what he is getting whipped for and he will be likely to profit by the whipping, and he will not be disposed to sulk, as he would be after he had been whipped without knowing why he was punished.

There is no particular time or place where the lesson in to heel may not be given. The only word of caution necessary to the breaker is to avoid giving these lessons at times when the dog is not in a cheerful mood. Sometimes it happens that the effect of some other lesson lingers unpleasantly with the dog. An effort should always be made, in such cases, to get the dog in a good humor before a new lesson is attempted.

Dogs that have been taught to walk to heel will, if given the opportunity, strain at the lead when being led. It is a disagreeable habit of which the dog should be broken. If it is desired to have the dog walk in front on a lead, the dog should never be permitted to strain on the lead, but

should walk with a comparatively loose lead. The moment the dog leans forward in his collar and tightens the lead he should be checked smartly, and when he has learned better than to pull at the lead he may be hit a cut with the whip when he attempts it. Eventually, he will lead without pulling. The instant he feels the line tightening he will check himself until the line slacks.

It is very good discipline for some dogs, which do not like to obey, to be compelled to follow to heel in the field while the breaker hunts over another dog. It is a kind of discipline the dog does not like very well, for he is always under the strain of temptation to break away and join the other dog. However, he appreciates his reward when he is permitted to go out and hunt while the other dog is compelled to walk to heel.

It does not appear to be a difficult matter to handle two dogs in this way, but the breaker who attempts it will find he will be kept pretty busy holding one dog to heel and working the other. It is easy enough if the breaker is disposed to be harsh and use the whip freely. But this will put the dog in a very bad frame of mind and tend to make him sour. When this kind of work is attempted the dog at heel should drag a check cord,

and when he gets out of place the breaker should get hold of the line as quickly and quietly as possible and check the dog, forcing him back to heel with as little fuss as possible.

It is very lonesome work for a dog to plod along to heel when he is anxious to be galloping over the field hunting for birds. To him it is very severe punishment, and it is no wonder that he tries frequently to slip away. The handler should appreciate all this and must make due allowance for the dog's conduct. The dog, of course, is to be compelled to obey and keep his place with the handler, but he must not be scolded severely or be treated too harshly for small violations of the rule of walking to heel. When the working dog comes to a good point the dog at heel may be allowed to go out and back him, but after the birds are flushed he should return to his place at heel.

By changing the dogs every half hour, or such a matter, the work of walking to heel will not be so hard to bear.

When two dogs are given a turn about in this way at hunting and walking to heel for several days, they fall into the work without feeling the hardship they felt in the beginning of their experience, and each will learn to take the matter cheerfully.

There is nothing to be gained in carrying this work too far—just enough to get the dog to walk kindly to heel while another dog hunts. A little of this discipline will have a good general effect on the dog; particularly it will tend to make him perfect in the matter of walking to heel whenever he is ordered to do so.

Like other lessons in breaking, variation is desirable in teaching dogs to walk to heel. To that end the breaker should take his young dog out occasionally for a walk, permitting him to run at large a part of the time, and then requiring him to walk to heel. When the dog has been at heel a little while, the breaker will simply say, "Go on!" and the dog, being anxious for action, will have a better grasp on the order, "Go on!" He learns that very quickly when at heel, because he wishes to do that very thing. He cannot learn the meaning of orders too well.

The experience the dog gets in a short walk under pleasant circumstances is well worth the trouble it cost the breaker. Besides the specific application to some lesson in particular, it has a good general effect.

CHAPTER XI

GUN-SHYNESS AND ITS CURE

THE experienced breaker seldom has a gun-shy dog in his kennel, because he has learned to anticipate his dog and will, therefore, take no risks at making him gun-shy. Men who have had little to do with gun-shy dogs are not so likely to look ahead and prevent gun-shyness. They should read well the chapter on "Anticipation," written for their benefit.

In all things the breaker is to anticipate his dog as much as possible, but in particular he should understand that if he starts shooting over his young dog the chances are he will frighten him and possibly make him so gun-shy that he will have a severe task on his hands if he attempts to cure him. The best advice to be given the breaker with respect to gun-shyness is, do not let the dog become gun-shy. Then he will not have to be broken of one of the worst, if not the very worst, fault a dog can acquire.

The method of prevention is very simple. While the young dog is romping about the field and is far away, the handler should snap a cap on a pistol, or discharge a very light load of powder from a pistol.

Here is the error the breaker is most likely to make after he has fired. He will stop to see what effect it had on the dog, and if the dog pricks up his ears a little, or drops his tail, or even stops hunting, the breaker will stop and pay much attention to the dog. Very likely he will say, "Good dog," "Here, Dash," "Come in, Dash," etc., etc., and then he will pat him and make a great fuss in trying to assure the dog the noise he heard will not hurt him, all of which is the worst he could do, for by the time he gets through he has thoroughly impressed it upon the dog that the noise he heard is something to worry about. The next time the dog hears the report he will be really frightened and no amount of petting will change him.

What the breaker should do is to fire the pistol from behind, put the pistol in his pocket quickly and go on about his business just as though nothing unusual had happened. If the dog pay much attention to the report and appear uneasy about it, the breaker must pay no attention to the dog.

Even if the dog come in and walk to heel the breaker is not to notice him, but continue on humming a song, or whistling a tune, perfectly unconcerned. Let the dog run to heel awhile, if he wishes to do so. After a time he will forget about the noise and go out to work.

Now this appears to be and is, in fact, a very simple thing for the breaker to do. He will find, however, when he tries it, that he will be sorely tempted to speak to the dog and in other ways give him damaging attention.

This shooting off a pistol in the manner already mentioned is to be continued until the dog will pay no particular attention to the light discharges. Then the charge may be increased and the distance between handler and dog lessened until finally the dog will not flinch at the report of the pistol discharged quite near him. Still, the breaker is not to take too much liberty with his dog by discharging a heavy load close to him.

When the dog gets accustomed to reports from a pistol, light loads may be discharged from the gun. After the dog has become accustomed to the sight of the gun, it is well to place the gun on the ground close to him when he lies down. All of these little precautions against gun-shyness are well worth the trouble they cost.

Even after all this preliminary precaution a careless breaker will sometimes get excited and shoot both barrels at birds rising from the dog's point, and, being close to the dog, may frighten him badly. It is well to stand a little way off and shoot only one load, and a light one at that, when first shooting over the dog's points. The rise of the birds is likely to make the dog a little nervous. If with this two heavy loads are discharged close to him, he may flinch, or even run away.

When the breaker has a real confirmed gun-shy dog to deal with, before he undertakes the task of curing the fault he should count the cost. Ordinarily, a gun-shy dog is not worth what it will cost to cure him, and, unless he is a dog of excellent breeding and full of promise, it were better not to undertake his breaking. He can be cured, but the task is a severe one.

In the outset, the breaker who undertakes to break a gun-shy dog must not attempt much work, and under no circumstances is he to apply force. The thing to do is to take the dog hunting every day without a gun. If there is a dog in the kennel that hunts well he may be allowed to go afield with such dog now and again. In all probability he will walk to heel while the other dog hunts. For this he is in no way to be interfered with; not even

is he to be spoken to. All the while he will be getting the fright out of his head. It will be a slow process, but the dog will come to enjoy an hour or two's tramp in good company, especially as he is not interfered with. In the course of a few days he will begin to take an interest in starting out, either with or without the other dog. In the field he will begin to show a disposition to go out. But he must not be urged. The breaker is simply to plod along without appearing to pay any attention whatever to his dog. He may sit down with him occasionally, and if the dog is disposed to be friendly he may pet him a little. But as soon as he starts off no further attention is to be paid to the dog.

Eventually, the dog will go out, and once he gets a taste of game he will put more spirit in his work. In the end, he may hunt well, point birds and possibly chase them. For chasing he may be restrained mildly, but otherwise he should be permitted to have his own way. He may even be worked with a steady old dog and be taught to back.

If he will search for birds and point them, the breaker can make an attempt at getting him accustomed to the report of a gun. At first he is to snap caps while the dog is far away, taking care

that the dog does not see the pistol. Then he will try the effect of light charges of powder. Should the breaking of caps or the discharge of powder frighten the dog, the breaker is to treat the matter with absolute indifference. If the dog choose to come to heel, let him have his own way. When he gets ready he will go to work again. Perhaps, on the same day; possibly not for several days. When he does finally decide to hunt, no further attempt at shooting is to be made for a day or two, according as the dog may or may not be in high spirits. Then the caps and light charges are to be tried again while the dog is interested in his work at a distance. When he gets so that he will pay no attention to the cracking of a cap at a distance, he may be accustomed to the noise at closer range. Then he may be treated in the same way with light charges until he will not flinch when a light charge is fired near him. Always, however, these light charges are to be fired when he is at work, for if taken unawares when his mind is not otherwise occupied, he will be the more easily frightened.

Before the gun is discharged it should be carried afield for a few days. The dog may not like the looks of it at first, but his suspicions will wear off, when light loads may be discharged. Even

when he will stand fire at a distance he must not be shot over carelessly, but should be far enough from the gun so that the shock will be light. At first, when shooting over his points, the gun should be dropped after it has been discharged. Both breaker and dog should go away while the gun is on the ground. When the dog goes to work again the breaker may return for his gun.

As before stated, it is a long, tedious task to cure a gun-shy dog, but by patience and perseverance a complete cure may be effected.

It may be added, by way of encouragement to those who have gun-shy dogs, that the very nature of the dogs which often become gun-shy is the most desirable in a field dog. When once broken these dogs are very easy to control. They are naturally gentle and obedient.

CHAPTER XII

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS

IT will not hurt the dog at this period of breaking to get a little taste of game. But work on game is not to be carried very far at this time. The chief object to be sought is to increase his enthusiasm for hunting. The yard breaking he has had has in all probability taken a little of the natural vim out of him. This must be brought back by giving him a little fling on birds. He may be permitted to run comparatively wild for a few days, working not more than two hours each day.

One reason why he should not be allowed to go very far in his bird work is that he will, most likely, get a habit of ranging in his own way. When he has been taught how to range he will have a different idea of the way to hunt out his ground.

While he is having a few days' work on birds, just to brighten him up, his yard breaking should be continued. He should be led to the field on a lead and might be given a few lessons in retrieving.

When the breaker gets ready to do so he will force his dog to retrieve, but for the present all the work done in the way of retrieving should be done in the spirit of playfulness.

Young dogs which are full of life when first taken among birds very easily get into the habit of self hunting. They learn very quickly when in a good quail country what kind of looking places are most likely to hold birds, and without a thought of their handler's whereabouts, they rush on and on from one good piece of ground to another. They have little idea of turning and crossing in front of their handler. Lessons in quartering and ranging give the dog the turning idea and, when the lesson is well drummed into them, they come around on their casts almost as a matter of second nature.

While giving the young dog a taste of real hunting it is well for the breaker to have in mind the ranging lessons he will give his dog, and without attempting much in the way of directing his dog he should move on his course in a zigzag way, so as to encourage the dog to come around.

Some breakers exert all their efforts when they first put their dog down to getting the dog to go out and stay out. This comes largely as a result of the "class" craze that is fostered by some of

the field trial judges. With them a class that is false class is the essential field dog quality. In developing this class the breaker simply pushes his dog out and then chases him on horse back. Wide consistent ranging can be taught in a better way. The dog can be got to go out and stay out after he has been well drilled in ranging at closer quarters. Let the dog have just a little romp in the hunting field at this time. Let him get some notion of looking up his handler occasionally, which he will get, if the handler takes, as before directed to do, a zigzag course through the field.

What is especially desired at this time is to get the dog to hunt at the top of his speed, for the work he is receiving at this time is a preparation for lessons in ranging and quartering. The dog which is sluggish will not learn his lesson well. The more fire he has in him and the faster he goes the easier will it be to give him his lessons in quartering and ranging. In fact, it is scarcely worth while to attempt this lesson unless the dog shows a fondness for racing. So long as he shows a want of interest in fast work he should be encouraged to hunt by being given short runs, and when he begins to lag he must be taken up.

The more of companionship there is between breaker and dog, the better. The dog may be

taken out for a walk at any time and may at all times be as close to the breaker as possible. There are many little things a dog learns by coming in contact with people. Besides, he gets accustomed to many strange sights and noises. The dog which has had an opportunity of this kind, besides gaining knowledge and putting his faculties to use, is not so likely to become frightened in the kennel yard while being trained. The sum of all this makes one of the trifles that enter into the dog's general development and is well worth the expense of effort it costs the breaker.

If the dog finds birds at this period of his education it will do him good, but the handler must not be too exacting. He might get him in and correct him mildly if he chases, but special care must be taken not to restrain him too much. Better let him do a little chasing than to take any of the fire out of his work. He must be kept on edge at all costs.

This work, the dog will, in all probability, enjoy, and because of the pleasure he gets out of it he will take more kindly to his lessons in yard breaking. When he goes particularly well in these short jaunts afield the breaker may try him on some of the lessons he has had at the kennel. He might be tried at "To-ho," and coming in both to the

spoken command and the whistle. For this work he must be called in and after a few moments' rest put through his lessons. Then after another rest he should be started out again.

Should the dog appear to do well at this treatment it may be carried to such an extent that practically all of his yard breaking may be done between spurts in the field. When this is managed well by the breaker it will be found that the change of location has a good effect on the dog. He will be in high spirits and enter into the work with some snap, and when he finds that he can do well what is required of him, and further finds that his performance pleases the breaker, he will come to enjoy the work of going through his lessons. The romp after his performance comes to him as a reward which he will be sure to appreciate.

All through this preliminary field work the dog is to be given some idea of the use of the whistle, but is not to be whistled at too much, because the constant blowing of the whistle will either distract the dog, or else he will get so he will pay no attention to it at all. Following the general directions laid down in the chapter on "Anticipation," the breaker will whistle the dog around from his cast at just that moment when he feels the dog is ready to come around. He may whistle to him after

he is once started on his course toward the handler. This gives the dog an idea of the meaning of the whistle. Should the breaker attempt to whistle the dog around just when he desires to have him come around, the dog will not come unless he is ready to come, and further whistling instead of helping matters will make them worse. Better that the handler go after his dog quietly and wait on his pleasure to turn, rather than encourage the habit in the dog of going away from the whistle. Most likely the dog will, at times, be so absorbed in hunting out a place that looks good to him that he will care little or nothing for the whistle. If the handler will follow him a few minutes until he finishes the particular piece of ground he is hunting, he will, most likely, then be able to attract his attention with the whistle. If he can do this, then let him turn and go in an opposite direction. The dog will be inclined to follow him. If he does this a few blasts on the whistle may be given when he starts.

Should the dog be disposed to range too freely at this time, the length of his lesson afield may be increased. This will take enough of the fire out of him to bring him down to a suitable range. Too much range is hardly to be expected. The getting out of hand occasionally must not be con-

strued to mean too much range. All that is necessary is to keep him within such range that he will not get lost or bolt the course. He should be keyed up just as close to the bolting point as possible.

It does no harm at this time to let the dog race over barren fields. He is not yet wise enough to know the difference between real bird ground and a barren grass field. His idea is to race, and that is desirable. When it comes to teaching him how to quarter his ground the work will best be done in fields where there is no game, and it is just as well to let him get used to racing over such fields while he is unacquainted with bird ground. When he gets wiser from experience he will have no desire to hunt the barren ground. In his present state of knowledge he will enjoy racing through the smooth, level fields. But he is not to be made so tired at this work that he will lose the desire of hunting for birds when taken to bird ground.

CHAPTER XIII

FORCE IN RETRIEVING

THE first matter ever published in this country on forcing setters and pointers to retrieve was written by the writer for Arnold Burger's book, in 1874. The following year a longer article on the subject was written by the writer for the Chicago *Field*. These articles have been used quite freely by a number of writers who have written on the subject since. The system of force worked out and laid down many years ago is in all essential respects the same as that used in all the "modern" works on retrieving.

It is of small consequence, perhaps, that the early article on retrieving along with other articles on breaking published at the same time, have been liberally drawn upon to build "modern" works on breaking. The facts are here mentioned for fear someone may accuse the writer of borrowing from others, whereas he is only using that which he created and published many years ago.

Who invented the system of force in retrieving

is not known. The system was used in New York and New England as early as 1870. In New York City at that time there was a breaker who made a specialty of forcing dogs to retrieve by means of the spike collar. He made a secret of his system, except that he did not conceal the collar. The writer secured one of these collars, and in the course of time systematized its use and published the system as before stated.

At the same time there were a number of breakers in New England who used a force system without the spike collar. Instead of applying the force with the collar they twisted the dog's nose. Others have been successful in forcing dogs to retrieve by pinching the ear. No matter which method is used, the principle is the same. The dog is punished with the collar and as he opens his mouth in response to the punishment, the object to be retrieved is thrust into his mouth. When he puts it out he is punished again in order to make him hold fast to the object. Finally, he is taught by the same method to carry, to pick up the object and retrieve to order.

As to which is the best means of applying the force there is a difference of opinion among good breakers. Some are more successful with the spike collar, while others do more satisfactory

work by twisting the dog's nose or pinching his ear.

Properly handled, the spike collar is probably the best means of making a good retriever in a short time. Improperly handled it does the dog damage from which he will not recover in a season. Perhaps there have been more good dogs ruined by the use of the spike collar than by any other means. Once the dog becomes cowed from its use he is very difficult to handle, for he is always in fear of punishment.

Some dogs take very kindly to the collar and respond to the breaker's wishes very promptly, while others become frightened at it in the very beginning, and sulk when any attempt is made to use it. With dogs of this character it is unwise to attempt to use the spike collar as a means of teaching retrieving. One of the other methods referred to had better be substituted.

For many years retrieving has not been required at field trials. Breakers generally complained that if required to break their dogs to retrieve they would run the risk of taking much of the spirit out of their dogs. That it would spoil their "class" and generally set them back in their development. There is much truth in their contention. Besides, retrieving being an artificial

instead of a natural quality, nothing was to be gained from a field trial point of view in requiring dogs to retrieve. With the sportsman's dog, the dog which is used for shooting rather than exhibition, retrieving is a necessary accomplishment. However, the breaker who is attempting to develop and break a shooting dog rather than a field trial performer should take a lesson from the book of the field trial handler and know that in forcing his dog to retrieve he is going to take a lot of fire out of him. The less of this the better. Let the breaker anticipate this fact in the beginning and so manage his lessons in retrieving as to do the least possible damage.

The most effective spike collar is made of small wood balls, such as are used on horses which interfere. Into each of these balls there should be put six or eight spikes, made of small steel wire. The spikes should be a little less than a half inch long and should be filed to a sharp point. Six or eight of these wooden balls with their spikes should be strung on a stout piece of cord, so as to make a choke collar, the balls being separated from each other by knotting the cord.

This collar when completed is a wicked-looking instrument of torture, but as a matter of fact it is not as bad as it looks. The idea in the use

of the collar is to merely prick the dog. This can be done with very little demonstration on the part of the breaker, and that is the chief value of the collar. The dog is frightened by an excess of action by an angry handler quite as much as he is from the punishment inflicted. In using the collar the breaker can apply the punishment quickly and quietly, and the dog will respond without having to watch the breaker's movements, and thus be distracted from his work. The dog need not be punished severely, and need not have his spirit broken. On the other hand, a good breaker can so use the collar as to have the dog wag his tail and look cheerful and interested during the lessons in retrieving.

Before any attempt should be made in using the collar for teaching retrieving the dog should be given an opportunity to get well acquainted with the collar. He should be led about with it, but it should not be used at this time to check him in order to make him follow, as this will tend to give the dog an idea that its use is to force him to come close to the handler. If he gets that idea it will bother him when the collar is put to its real use.

When the breaker is ready to give the first lesson in retrieving he should have a firm hold of the line,

which is the same on which the collar is made. This line, held in the right hand, should not be over three feet long, so that the breaker may have the dog close to him when giving him instruction. The breaker will hold in his left hand the object to be taken by the dog into his mouth. Nothing is better for this purpose than a large corncob. This is light and has such a rough surface it may easily be grasped and held by the dog.

The first lesson is to teach the dog to open his mouth when he feels the check on the collar. As the breaker checks lightly with the right hand he should say "Fetch!" The dog will open his mouth to cry out when he feels the pricks from the collar. The breaker holding the cob in front of the dog's nose as he applies the check will thrust the cob into the dog's mouth when it is opened.

The dog will put the cob out of his mouth at once. The breaker will pick it up and holding it as before in front of the dog's mouth, say "Fetch!" and put the object quickly into the dog's mouth as he opens it. After this has been tried several times the dog will begin to connect the punishment with the opening of his mouth and the word "fetch," and he may show a little disposition to press toward the cob with his open mouth. If he does he should be given an opportunity to grab the

object. At any rate this is the next lesson he is to learn and he should be encouraged by having the object held so that he may easily grab it. No attention is to be paid to his refusal to hold the object. So far it is desired merely to have the dog open his mouth promptly at the lightest check and step forward toward the cob and grab it. To encourage the dog to move with open mouth toward the object held in the left hand, the breaker should first hold the object close to the dog's mouth, and as the check is applied draw the hand away a few inches or a foot, at the same time the breaker should take a step in the same direction. The breaker will strive to have the dog grab the object, but if he move toward it simply with open mouth the object must be quickly pushed into his mouth.

After a few lessons of this kind the dog will in all probability get the idea that he is simply to open his mouth, move quickly toward the object and grab it. If he has not been made afraid of the collar he will do this cheerfully, and in fact take an interest in the work.

The dog may now be given lessons in carrying or holding the object after it has been placed in his mouth. For this lesson the object is to be placed in the dog's mouth and when he attempts

to drop it he should be checked and ordered to "Fetch!" The breaker must assist the dog by holding his hand under the dog's chin, so he may get the object quickly when the dog puts it from his mouth. The breaker may also hold one end of the cob after he has put it in the dog's mouth and the instant he feels the dog let go his hold, the check collar is to be tightened and the dog commanded to "Fetch!"

Opening the mouth to take the object is one degree of the retrieving lesson. Reaching for the object and grabbing it is another. Holding an object after it is in the mouth is still another. After the dog will do all these things understandingly, he must be taught to walk with the object in his mouth. No matter how well he may grab the object and hold it while standing still, the moment he is required to move he will open his mouth and let the object fall. He must be taught to walk with it and when he opens his mouth he should be checked. The breaker being certain that he will open his mouth when an attempt is made to move, should be ready to check him in the very act, get hold of the object and force it back into his mouth. After repeated lessons the dog will understand that he is not to drop the object from his mouth and to escape the punishment from the

collar will hold fast to the object. It is not well to punish the dog after the object falls to the ground, in these early lessons. Effectiveness is had by applying the check just as the dog is about to let go; or for that matter the check may be made an instant before this so as to punish on the instant of the intention.

Having learned to hold and carry and grab an object held conveniently in front of him, the dog will have to be taught to grab the object when held straight in front of him at a distance or when held on either side of his head, above or below the level of his mouth.

The young breaker will suppose that the dog which will grab an object from one position should grab it from any other position, and because the dog will not do it, he will be likely either to lose his temper or get discouraged. Because the breaker does not appreciate how much or how little to expect from his dog, bad use is made of the spike collar, the dog is damaged and the collar is blamed for it all. The breaker must be reasonable if he would teach his dog without cowing him.

By trying the dog at grabbing the object from different positions he will learn to reach for the object in any direction, being guided chiefly by

the breaker's left hand. This idea of reaching for the hand becomes so firmly fixed in the dog's mind that if the breaker holds his left hand out after having dropped the object under the dog's nose, the dog will grab his hand and pay no attention to the object. Nothing at this time could induce the dog to pick up the object; he does not know how; he must be taught.

With the view of getting the dog to pick up an object the breaker will lower his hand by degrees until it will touch the ground, holding the cob just far enough above the ground so the dog may easily grasp it. Going a little farther with this lesson the breaker will let one end of the cob rest on the ground while the other end rests lightly on the end of his fingers, bearing in mind all the time that it is the hand that guides the dog. When the dog will pick up the cob from this position the cob may be laid on the ground, but the breaker's left hand should be laid alongside of it. Gradually the hand should be drawn away until the dog will pick up by merely starting the hand toward the cob lying a few feet in front of him. When the dog gets the order "Fetch!" accompanied with a check, the breaker's left is to be started toward the object and withdrawn.

At times the dog will follow the hand as though

he would pick up the object, but just as the breaker withdraws his hand the dog will follow it instead of grasping the cob. In such an event the breaker is to try again, this time allowing the hand to go as far as the object.

When the dog will pick up an object dropped two or three feet ahead of him he will not get the object if it is thrown to one side or further ahead. He will expect always to find the object in the accustomed place. When it is not there he will be disposed to turn back toward his handler. When it is first thrown a little beyond the usual place the breaker should take a step or two forward with the dog when he orders him to "Fetch!" This will encourage him to go farther and pick up the object. If the dog is still unwilling to go under such circumstances, the breaker should lean forward and place his hand near the object.

Now the breaker must endeavor to have the dog follow the object with his eyes when it is thrown a few feet ahead of him, and then to order, run and pick it up and return to the breaker. Whenever the breaker takes the object from the dog's mouth he should say, "Give." At this order the dog is to be made to understand he is to let go of the object, but he is not to be checked with the collar for this. He will learn in a little while to let go when

Retrieving. Teaching to Pick Up.

(See page 105.)

Retrieving. Learning to Mark.

(See page 110.)

he hears the order. In taking the object from the dog the breaker should place his left hand under the dog's chin so that the object will be dropped into his hand when he orders the dog to "Give."

In this connection the dog is to be taught to sit on his haunches, directly in front of the handler, when he brings the object. This is a very simple lesson; all that is necessary for the breaker to do is to put him in position and order him to sit up. When the dog learns to come quickly to the handler and sit up with the object in his mouth the breaker should step back a pace or two and compel the dog to follow him and sit up again, the idea being to impress it upon the dog that he is always to come as close to the handler as possible and sit up, following the handler quickly when he moves, and sitting up in front of him when he stops.

The dog will be disposed to drop the object from his mouth or "Give" too quickly. He must be drilled in sitting up in front of the handler and holding on until he gets the order to "Give." Naturally he will be inclined to let go the instant the handler places his hand under his chin. When he does this he should be checked and compelled to hold fast until he hears the order to "Give." The breaker can school him well in this by putting the hand under his chin, and giving him the order

to "Fetch" instead of "Give," compelling him to hold until the breaker is ready. Then he should give instantly.

Now that the dog will fetch and carry one particular object and deliver that properly in the breaker's hand, he must be taught to fetch and carry other objects.

The breaker will find that when he changes from a corncob to a soft roll of cloth or a stick the dog will not be disposed to work as he should. He must be accustomed to these new objects, and in order to succeed at the smallest cost the breaker will do well to give him the first lesson in retrieving over again, substituting the new object to be used. If the new object is placed in the dog's mouth and he is made to carry it, and then given a little opportunity to learn how to pick it up, he will soon get the knack of picking up and carrying anything of reasonable size and weight.

In the end the dog must have a tender mouth. He should, therefore, be required to fetch and carry those things that are calculated to make him soft-mouthed. Bread, meat, and objects that he might hurt unless he were careful, should be used. The spike collar itself is a splendid object for this purpose.

Should the dog become frightened at the spike

collar in his early lessons, and refuse to respond to it well, another method of force thould be used. The best is that of pinching the left ear with the right hand. The ear is by no means to be pulled. The breaker should simply use his thumb nail on the inside of the ear, pressing it against his forefinger on the outside; that is, he takes the ear between his thumb and forefinger and inflicts the punishment on the inside. The dog should respond to this just as he would when checked with the spike collar. It is a very effective method, much better than that of pinching the dog's nose.

All these lessons in retrieving are really elementary. The dog has much more to learn before he may be considered a finished retriever.

CHAPTER XIV

RETRIEVING AND MARKING

THE finished retriever will drop to shot or wing and mark down the dead bird as accurately as the shooter will. But before he reaches this state of perfection he will require some schooling in marking and in distances.

When the dog has been perfected in his preliminary work at retrieving and enters into the work with spirit, he should be taken to a level field and given practice at marking and retrieving an object thrown by the breaker.

At first the dog should be dropped, and the breaker after getting his attention should throw the object about thirty yards. It should be thrown high so the dog may see it fall and locate it well. The dog having marked it down will lie still, with his eyes on the spot where the object fell, waiting for the order to go fetch. This order at this time will be simply "Dash"—not "Dash, go fetch," or any other words; just "Dash." At the order he is to go straight to the object on a gallop, pick

From an Old Engraving.

Spaniel Retrieving, 1829.

it up quickly and gallop back to the breaker, and sitting in front of him deliver the object in his hand.

The thing to be avoided is anything like searching for the object on the dog's part. The lesson to be taught is one purely of marking with his eyes the spot where the object fell. As he gets near the object his nose will help him some. But he is to be taught as far as possible to depend upon his eyes, using his nose only as he comes to the place where he marked the object down.

Should the dog show a disposition to overrun the object, or begin searching for it too soon, he should be called in and the object should be thrown a shorter distance. After he becomes expert in marking at the short distance, the object may be thrown farther.

As the lesson progresses the breaker should vary the distance sometimes, throwing the object twenty yards straight away, then forty, fifty, or sixty yards. After the dog goes well for objects thrown straight away, he should be tried at marking both to the right and left. Always the breaker should bear in mind that the chief object is marking.

Other features of the lesson are to be performed with promptness, but special effort should be made at training the dog's eye so he can mark the

Dogs which are taught to retrieve a quail will often refuse to lift a snipe or a woodcock until they have had some special schooling in retrieving these birds. They must also have special training at retrieving ruffed grouse or prairie chickens. They must be permitted to get acquainted with these birds and learn from experience how to pick them up gently and carry them.

The application of all work in retrieving to actual field work is very simple. A little patience and care will be found necessary in the beginning, as the dog will be a little slow to pick up a freshly killed bird. He must be humored until he gets accustomed to the work. The breaker should be particular to have the first bird he allows the dog to retrieve fall in a good place for the purpose, and the bird should be dead but not badly mutilated. It is well to go with the dog at first, and after he has made some show of retrieving it the bird may be thrown out a short distance for him to retrieve again.

To impress the relationship of the gun and the bird the dog should be dropped and as the bird is thrown the gun should be discharged. At home this lesson should be continued so that the dog will be on the lookout for a falling bird to be marked upon hearing the report of the gun. It takes a

From an Old Engraving.

A Smart Retriever, 1829.

great deal of practice both at home and in the field for a dog to get the knack of watching for falling birds and marking them well, but like every other lesson experience usually conquers this one and makes for a high degree of perfection.

Dogs which are taught to retrieve as herein directed, learn each essential part of the whole lesson of retrieving perfectly, and if at any time for any cause they refuse to retrieve they can be forced with little trouble to perform that particular part of the work at which they rebelled. And dogs forced by this method are always prompt and cheerful in doing their work. They know how to do each part and they know they can be forced to obey. When they have had a little experience in retrieving they come to enjoy it quite as much as any work they are called upon to do.

Dogs which are taught to retrieve in a spirit of playfulness seldom make good retrievers. They cannot be directed how to do the work in detail and therefore never learn. They have a way of their own and as soon as that is interfered with they refuse to retrieve altogether. And then these dogs which are coaxed into retrieving are often hard-mouthed and never make as good markers as the dogs which are forced. There is no objection to teaching a puppy to retrieve in a spirit of

playfulness; he will like the fun and this work may be used from time to time during his early training to brighten him up. But finally he should be taken in hand and be taught to retrieve by the force system.

As a rule, retrieving is not so nicely done at the present time as it was before retrieving was abolished at field trials. Some of our best field trial breakers continue to teach their dogs to retrieve, but for the most part the lesson is neglected. Formerly it was held to be one of the especial setter or pointer accomplishments, and breakers spent much time on this part of the education of their dogs. Prompt, fast work was demanded. As showing how highly this accomplishment was regarded by a generation of sportsmen passed away, a picture of a retriever at work in 1829 is herewith reproduced. The dog is returning with a pheasant at a full gallop.

CHAPTER XV

RANGING AND QUARTERING

RANGING for quail is not quartering. Yet the dog which has had a thorough training in quartering will, ultimately, make the best ranger.

What we demand of the highest type of the ranging dog on quails is that he will go fast and wide and yet not get off the course. The perfect ranger needs no further direction than to dash away at the order, "Go on!" He knows which way to go. He sweeps the country before him with a glance and determines for himself, just as the handler might determine for him, which is the best way to go. He has the handler's general course fixed in his mind when he breaks away to the right, or left, and when he has gone about five hundred yards in an open country he knows that it is time to turn and cross over to the other side of the handler.

The good ranger does not come in to his handler to make his cast to the right or left, but crosses well

in front of him, going through the best looking ground on the way. Fifty or one hundred yards in front of the handler there may be barren ground. The wise dog is not going to waste his energy galloping through this for the sake of getting on the other side of his handler. He will go farther up the course so as to find hunting ground on which to cross.

It is not necessary in making his casts from right to left, or left to right from the handler, for the dog to be continually looking for the handler. He has a good sense of direction, and if he sees his handler when he makes a turn at the end of his cast, he gets the handler's course and crosses as nearly as may be in front of him on the line he expects the handler to follow. He knows intuitively when he comes around again at the end of his beat, just about where to look for his handler. If he is not where he expected him to be he suspects he has turned either to the right or left, and it is in these directions he looks for him and probably brings him into view very readily. If the handler has changed his course the dog gets in front of him and beats out the country on either side of the line the handler follows.

Very wise dogs, well schooled in ranging, have little difficulty in keeping their handler in view.

Although the dog may be separated from his handler frequently by hill, gullies and thickets, he manages to come out in full view of the handler whenever he turns on his beat to cross over to the other side of the field.

The handler, of course, who understands his dog and knows how to travel a course, helps the dog. If he desires to change the direction of his course he waits until the dog comes around on his natural beat so that the dog may have a good opportunity to observe his movements. In this way both man and dog go over a course always in touch with each other, and this without shouting or whistling on the handler's part. Each knows what to do and in doing it all friction is avoided.

In England, where quartering is taught to perfection, the dog is never permitted to get out of hand, as he is in this country. But this is due chiefly to the difference in the character of the hunting. Here we have larger, irregular fields, broken by hills, gullies and thickets. In England the fields are small and more even with respect to their likelihood of holding game. The birds are just about as likely to be found in one part of the field as the other. That makes it necessary to hunt the whole field, to work it out in parallel lines. In this country the birds frequent certain kinds of

ground. The character of this ground the dog learns by proper development and experience and is able to find the greatest number of birds in a given time by searching the likely places and skipping those which appear to him to be barren of birds. As a matter of fact the greatest number of coveys of birds could be found in a given time if the dog hunted straight away, or rather paid no attention to turning to the gun. But such a range is not practical, for the dog would soon be lost. Our field trial handlers develop their dogs as close to this idea of keeping away on comparatively straight lines as possible. It gives the dog the appearance of having more speed than he really possesses. The handler having this in mind, as well as the finding of coveys, pushes on after his dog on horseback at a much faster pace than the sportsman would think comfortable in an ordinary day's shooting.

Another advantage from the handler's point of view is that if the dog comes upon birds they will, most likely, stop him. If, on the other hand, he goes headlong into a covey, the dog is so far away the judges are not likely to see the dog's bad error, all of which tends to encourage a kind of range that is not desirable in the sportsman's dog, no matter how well it does for the dog in a field trial. The

field trial ranger is not the ideal ranger. The handler wishes to show such natural qualities as speed and bird finding, and to do this he goes as close as possible to the line where the dog becomes a bolter, or self-hunter.

There are a few handlers who do not carry this idea of pushing their dog out quite so far, and they are fully as successful in the end. Besides, they turn out dogs which are more comfort to shoot over. The handlers are not so much to blame for making their dogs runaways as are some of the judges who, having a mistaken idea of what really constitutes class, are fooled into thinking that to go far away and stay out from the handler is an expression of great speed. The truly faster dog may cover more ground and not get half as far away from his handler.

The ideal ranger is the dog which will touch all the likely country on a course about one thousand yards wide, covering this ground while the handler walks through the center of the course at a moderate pace. It will take a dog of good speed to do this, and then he will not be expected to hunt the country closely. If the dog has been taught how to do this he will work kindly to the gun and will not need constantly to be directed by his handler.

It should be borne in mind that the early range a dog may have is not the true range he will be expected to have after he has been developed. The shorter or closer range a dog is given during the early stages of his breaking is necessary, first to keep the dog well in hand and to prevent him from becoming a bolter or self-hunter.

Many breakers, after they have given their dog good yard breaking and have handled him well at close range in the field, are unable afterward to get their dog to go out. This is the breaker's fault, for no matter how contracted the dog's range, he can be got to go out at the proper time. In the early days of his breaking it is not wise to trust him on a wide range. When he understands how to work on a contracted range and is to be trusted, he can be pushed out to the limit of his speed. At any rate, he can be made to range as wide as any dog should range. That should never be so wide that the dog cannot easily find his way back on the course in front of his handler.

Of course, the range of a broken dog, no matter by what method he has been broken, must not be confounded with the range of one of those wild, half-broken racing dogs that run merely for the sake of running. They go just as fast and range just as wide on barren ground as they do on bird

ground. Such dogs have really no plan of ranging. They are simply wild, and having known little restraint are full of enthusiasm and race anywhere and everywhere, having no method in their ranging. When such dogs are broken they go the pace at which they can find birds. If they have good natural qualities, then their range may be fairly measured.

The desirable range can best be acquired after a dog has been taught to quarter. At least, quartering is the first step in preparing a dog for an ultimate good range.

CHAPTER XVI

FIRST LESSONS IN QUARTERING

WHEN the dog has been thoroughly taught how to quarter his ground, the knowledge he has gained will be applied to his ranging. Later he will not be expected to quarter as he has been taught; or, in other words, the chief reason for teaching the dog to quarter is that of gaining a means to an end. The dog which knows how to quarter a small regular field well can be made a more useful ranger than one which has not been so broken.

For the first lessons in quartering, select a comparatively small field where there are no birds. If the field is about one hundred yards across and is fenced on both sides, it will answer admirably the purpose. The field should be nearly level, free from trees, bushes or other obstacles calculated to turn the dog from a straight course.

It is desired to teach the dog to go straight to the fence on one side of the field, turn and go straight to the fence on the other side, and so back and

forth, making lines nearly parallel until the end of the field is reached.

Meanwhile, the handler will walk in a straight line up the middle of the field; that is, this will be his general course. To accomplish this end will tax the patience of the breaker to the limit, for it is a difficult lesson to teach. But almost absolute perfection may be reached if the breaker is patient and perseveres according to the instructions herein given.

First, let the breaker enter the field with his dog at one end, as near the center as possible, and if there is a breeze, or even a little air stirring, let him make sure to have the wind in his face. It will be a great help in making the dog turn out, instead of turning in, when he comes around from his casts.

The breaker should wave the dog to the right when the order, "Go on!" is given, and at the same time he should start off in that direction himself. Of course, the dog will not go in the direction the breaker wishes him to go, but no matter what course he takes he will try to get out ahead of the breaker. In this way he will go a little in the desired direction. As soon as the dog has gone a little way on the course the breaker should turn sharply and head for the other side of the field. If

the dog is disposed to go on to the right of the field after the breaker has turned to go the other way, he must not be interfered with. The chances are he will turn all too soon, and seeing the breaker going in an opposite direction will follow him at a good gallop.

As the dog comes on toward the breaker he should be encouraged with the words, "Go on!" and at the same time the breaker should wave his hand in the direction he would have the dog go. If the dog will pass him, well and good, but should he turn and go up-field, the breaker should whistle him around, and, while still walking straight on the dog's true course, encourage him to go in the desired direction by a wave of the hand and the order to "Go on!" Again, when the dog passes ahead of the breaker on the true course, the breaker is to turn and go straight toward the other side of the field. If, by chance, the dog should go on his course well up to the fence, he may be whistled around and directed as before.

And so to the end of the field the breaker will quarter out the ground himself, trying all the time to get the dog to go over the field in the same way. The dog will, most likely, make a very bad mess of it. He has little idea of what is wanted of him and, no doubt, thinks the antics of his handler are

ridiculous. Still the dog may enjoy it all, for it will appeal to him as something on the playful order.

When the end of the field is reached the dog should be taken up; that is, provided the field is not more than two hundred yards long. That distance is quite far enough to go on the first spurt. After being given a short rest another field should be tried in the same manner.

It is surprising how this kind of work will use up the dog's energy. The breaker will note this fact after he has given his dog a few lessons in quartering. He will notice also that he can only make headway with his dog when the dog is fresh and full of racing life. He should, therefore, make these first lessons in quartering short. A spurt through one field, a little rest, and then another spurt should be the rule to be followed, and before the dog begins to lag he should be taken up.

An hour of this kind of work in the morning and another hour in the afternoon is about all the dog will stand. But in no case should an attempt be made to teach this lesson while the dog is tired, or in no mood for racing.

For several days the dog will not appear to get much of an idea of what is wanted of him, and the breaker is more than likely to feel discouraged.

Sometimes the dog will make a fairly good cast to one side and then go racing up the field heedless of the blast of the whistle. What will discourage the breaker and make the task of teaching his dog to quarter look hopeless is the fact that he sees no way in which obedience to his directions may be enforced. But there is a way and that will be discussed later. For the present, it will be enough for the breaker to go zigzagging through the field and getting his dog to pick up some sort of notion of what is wanted of him. Neither force nor harsh language are to be used for the present. It is enough in this preliminary work to have the dog get a liking for hunting or racing over the barren field. If harsh measures are used in the early work the dog will not put vim in his work when it is needed later. The first lessons in quartering, therefore, may be said to be preparatory to the real education of this accomplishment that is to follow.

The breaker has probably found that his dog does not obey the order to "Come in," when he is called, nor answer the whistle. So far, the breaker has not tried very hard to enforce the order to "Come in," nor compel the dog to answer the whistle. The dog has had some work of this kind, and some force has been used in trying to impress

the lesson, but when these lessons were being taught there was no other lesson to interfere with them.

Now that an effort is to be made at perfecting the dog in quartering, this lesson interferes at present with the lessons already referred to. It interferes in this way: If an attempt is made in the early quartering lessons to enforce strict and prompt obedience to the order, "Come in," or to the whistle, it will take the dog's mind off the work that is more important at this time.

These lessons in coming to order and answering the whistle should be continued, but not as of first importance in connection with quartering. The command and the whistle are to be used regularly, even in the early quartering lessons, but the point is no such degree of obedience is to be exacted as is expected when these lessons are given under other conditions. Anything approaching quartering is to be encouraged, and the whistle and order to come in may be used for the present as a help to the immediate end sought. A little later these and other orders will be used in connection with quartering, and prompt obedience will be insisted upon.

If the breaker finds that his dog takes kindly to the fields he has selected for his quartering

work, he should use them regularly. If the dog is not pleased with them for any reason, a change should be made to another locality.

Sometimes the dog will show a little want of spirit in his work in a field where he has had trouble with his handler. When he comes to that field the old trouble will come to his mind, and this will take some of the fire out of his work. In another field the matter might never enter his head. For that reason the breaker should be on his guard, looking for such little things as this that are calculated to disturb the dog, and go where the trouble is not likely to be forced on the dog.

CHAPTER XVII

FURTHER LESSONS IN QUARTERING

THE dog should now be taught to To-ho instantly to order in the field as a means of assisting the breaker in further lessons in quartering.

When the order to stop is given, the breaker should stop and raise his right hand. If the dog refuses to stop at the order, the breaker must seize him as soon as he can and drag him back to the spot at which he was when the order was given. Then the breaker will return to the place where he stood when he gave the order.

In the beginning, the dog should be ordered to stop when he is facing the breaker, and when he will do this well he can easily be compelled to stop, no matter in which direction he may be going.

After the dog shows a willingness to stand to order while he faces his handler when standing still, the handler should move about on either side of the dog, and finally behind him. In moving, the breaker will go slowly, keep his hand raised

and be prepared to stop himself and use the order To-ho! sharply the instant the dog shows any disposition to move. If the dog leave the place where he was stopped, the breaker must get him and put him back.

A little force can be used in the giving of this lesson, for by this time the dog should have a very good idea of the meaning of the order, To-ho! When taken back he may be handled somewhat roughly and may also be given a few light cuts with the lash, and with each stroke of the whip the breaker should use the word To-ho!

After a few lessons of this kind, the lessons in quartering may be continued. In fact, all this work with respect to stopping to order should be done in connection with his quartering lessons. As soon as he will stop quickly and kindly to order, the more serious part of the lessons may be attempted.

It is to be supposed that the dog has a little notion of working from side to side of a field while his handler walks through the center, but nothing like perfection has been approached. The dog will, no doubt, make an occasional good cast. When he does this, the whistle should be blown for him to come around. As he comes galloping toward his handler, let the right hand be raised

and the order given to stop. In a moment, the breaker should say, "Go on," and wave his hand in the direction he desires the dog to go. At the same time he will start in the same direction himself, all the time waving his hand and encouraging the dog with the words, "Go on."

The breaker will have little difficulty in getting the dog to gallop a short distance past him in the right direction. But the dog will not go far before he will either turn and go up-field or come back toward his handler.

Here is where the breaker will find the beginning of the most difficult lesson in dog breaking, and he may as well prepare himself for a hard battle.

The dog, when he breaks away, or turns from his true course, must be stopped and forced to turn back again and work out the true line on which he was going. The dog will not understand; he will rebel against any instructions and will, most likely, sulk. But the breaker has the means of compelling obedience, and he will now see the importance of having taught his dog to stop so well that he can control him and prevent him from galloping away in any direction he may see fit. At each attempt to break away, the breaker calls "To-ho!" the dog stops and the breaker, advancing

toward him, waves him on his course and orders him to go on.

The chances are all this will fret the dog, but it should not worry the handler. The dog gets mixed in his mind and really does not know what to do. As is usual in such cases he gives up trying to do anything and particularly avoids doing the things required of him. He will come in to his handler and stay in. But the handler must send him out on his course; go with him, if necessary, clear to the fence. Then he may have to go across the field with the dog to the other fence. He must not be too exacting at this time. If the dog only approaches the idea of going as he should, the breaker may give him an encouraging word and be satisfied with the performance.

While the breaker will desire to have the dog go all the way across the field before turning, the dog will be disposed to turn too soon. If the breaker can anticipate him and whistle him around at about the time he would expect the dog to turn of his own accord, it will give the dog the idea of associating the turning with the whistle.

But the dog must, eventually, be forced to go all the way across the field, and just when to attempt this will depend upon the dog's actions. The breaker must govern himself accordingly. If

the dog goes sluggish, humor him until he is more cheerful and shows a disposition to gallop freely. Then when he turns before he should, stop him and force him to go back and finish the course from which he turned, as before directed to do.

The dog has been given to understand in his yard breaking lessons that he is to come in at the crack of the whip. That is not the real purpose of that lesson. Although the dog does not understand, the lesson is to check him from running away and to prevent undesirable fear of the whip. He must learn that he is to go out at the crack of the whip when the order accompanies it. Start him by cracking the whip when he is galloping in on his course while quartering. As the dog comes toward the breaker, whose general course is up the field, the breaker should turn toward the other side of the field, and looking back at the dog he must crack his whip, and, while ordering the dog to go on, wave his hand in the direction he would have him go. An effort should be made to keep the dog at full speed and have him pass the breaker while he cracks the whip and orders him to go on.

Most likely the dog will be carried past the breaker by his own momentum, but he will not go far before he turns and will, in all probability, attempt to come in to the breaker. The instant

he turns he should be stopped and turned back on his true course.

For a time the breaker must give his attention to getting the dog to pass on his course before him at a good gallop while the whip is being cracked. The breaker must urge him on with words of encouragement, and at the same time give the dog the idea that he is driving him with the whip to the fence.

When a little progress is made the breaker may stop the dog when he turns too quickly and advance toward him, cracking the whip, waving his hand in the direction he would have him go, repeating as he does this the order to go on. If the dog will not go he may hit him lightly with the whip and so attempt to drive the dog from him. The dog will dodge and go in the wrong direction, but the breaker must persevere and by some means get him to go to the fence. When that point is reached the breaker should change his tone and let the dog know he is pleased. Then he should be started for the other fence.

The breaker will find all this very discouraging work, for as soon as he attempts to drive the dog across the field, the dog will sulk and make a very bad mess of the work. But he will get over it, and little by little he will get the idea of beating out

his field in parallel lines. Constant drilling will accustom him to the driving process, and when the breaker may least expect it the dog will fall into the habit of running from the crack of the whip and the order, "Go on."

Any performance that shows a little progress should be satisfactory to the breaker, and he must take advantage of the least improvement the dog shows and follow up his advantage.

In giving these lessons in quartering it is well to change fields occasionally, as before directed, for the dog remembers the unpleasant things that happen in a particular field so soon as he is taken to that field. These things it is desirable the dog should forget. In a new field there will be no unpleasant associations to disturb him.

In the lessons on quartering, so far nothing has been said about turning in and turning out. This is of enough importance for a special chapter. However, the breaker should try always to have his dog turn out; that is, to turn with his head up-field. In the early lessons this must not be insisted on, although if the breaker will always bear the matter in mind he will be able to give the dog some help in turning.

CHAPTER XVIII

TURNING IN AND TURNING OUT

WHEN a dog is quartering a field, or ranging in any way, it is the most natural thing for him to do to turn in rather than turn out. If he turns to the whistle he has a feeling which prompts him to turn toward his handler, and the nearest and most natural way to face his handler is to turn in. When he turns without orders his mind is on his handler and he naturally turns in.

Turning out, when far to the right or left of his handler, means to the dog going still farther away, whereas his intention is to come in. It is difficult, therefore, to teach the dog to turn out.

Most dogs turn in more often than they turn out, and in doing so cover ground they have already covered. In a very open country, where the dog ranges freely, his turning in from a cast makes little difference, as he is not hunting the country very closely, and when he turns in from a cast is likely to make a wide turn and cover some untried

ground. Still, he must finally cross his own tracks and so waste some energy. At all times it is better to turn out, but more particularly when working at close range for single birds.

This lesson in turning out is a detail of the lesson in quartering and cannot well be taught until the dog is so proficient in stopping to order that he will stand at the raise of the hand, or the order, To-ho! and stop when going at full speed as though he had jumped into a point.

Supposing that he will beat out a small field fairly well, he may be given his first lesson on one side of the handler—the right side—and at one particular place in the course; that is, at a point about midway between the right hand fence and the line on which the breaker travels. As the dog is coming fast from his cast to the right, the breaker should stop him with raised hand. Now he should say, "Go round," and at the same time wave his right hand in a semi-circle, just as he would have the dog turn. If he turns out, well and good; but if he attempts to swing around on the inside he should be stopped instantly. After he has been stopped he should be called in, but just as he gets straightened toward the handler he should be stopped again. Now the handler will advance toward him, and when he is near the dog give the

order again. If this attempt is a failure the dog should again be headed toward the handler, who will advance and take him by the collar and start him on his course properly.

On the next occasion when the handler stops him, while returning from the cast to the right, slightly different tactics should be used. The handler should advance in a straight line, or nearly so, on his own course, so as to get the dog's head turned a little to the outward. The dog will, naturally, have his eyes on the handler at this time and will be more likely to have the outward intention when the handler is a step or two further up-field than the dog is. Now the breaker may advance toward the dog and give the order to go round, accompanied by a wave of the hand.

Eventually, the breaker will need to go to the dog, when he turns in upon being ordered to turn the other way, and pull him around roughly by the collar and start him off in the right direction. But there should be no haste about this, for the dog must be given a good chance to get the idea of what is wanted and get the habit started of going the right way.

Now let the breaker turn his attention to the dog in his casts to the left. The point of attack should be that at the end of his cast, for when the

dog turns in at that point he will turn to his left, and when he is directed to go on the proper course he will be turned to his right, just as he was turned to the right on the other side of the course.

The idea of selecting this point is to avoid confusing the dog by trying to make him turn to the right in one instance and to the left in another. By taking one at a time he will more readily be brought to understand the outward turning habit. In the first period of his education he learns to turn to his right, and that is sufficient to begin with.

The lesson to be given at the end of the cast to the left is the same as that given on the right-hand cast. When the dog comes around the wrong way he is to be stopped, sent back a step or two, and then brought around to order with his head up-field.

As soon as the dog can turn fairly well to order to his right he may be instructed in turning the other way; that is, to his left. To do this the breaker will only need to reverse the order in which he worked to get the turn to the right. At the end of the right-hand cast he will stop the dog and turn him to the left. On the left-hand cast he will stop the dog, as he comes toward him, and send him back to the fence.

It will be found that in teaching this turn to the left, the dog will need about as much coaching as he did in learning to turn the other way, even after he is quite proficient in the outward turn to the right. He has some of the turning feeling, but it all tends to lead him to swing around to his right.

While giving the first lessons in turning to the left, it is well to omit the lessons to the right for a few days. Then both may be given at the same hour.

Now the dog may be schooled in beating out the right half of the field while the breaker walks up the center. The dog is started off to the right, and just as he reaches the fence the breaker should call him around with the whistle. When he gets near the center of the field on his return, he must be stopped, turned and sent back to the fence, and so on until the end of the field is reached. He may be put on a lead then and led back to the other end of the field, or taken to a new field and be made to quarter out the left half.

The breaker must not expect too much of his dog. If he miss turning properly a part of the time, little attention should be paid to it, but he should get a kind word when he does his work well. If the breaker is careful not to be very

talkative to his dog, the dog will soon learn the difference between kind words of approval and harsh words of reproach, and will profit by them.

When the dog will quarter out a field from fence to fence, and will turn well either way, it will be found that there are some parts of his performance that are weak. He may stop to the raise of the hand, but not quite quickly enough. Instantly he sees the breaker's hand go up he should set his four feet on the ground firmly and brace himself, and then when the handler waves him around he should swing out on the instant. Let the handler take up that one detail and make his dog perfect. If he proceed properly, and is persistent, he will soon have his dog jumping into his stops, and when he does so he will watch closely for the wave of the hand sending him back, and he will be away like a shot. When he turns the handler may crack his whip, and speaking sharply, as well as encouragingly, may say, "Get away there! Go on! Get away!" emphasizing each order with the crack of the whip. The dog, so soon as he gets a good understanding of this work, will like it and enter into the spirit of it all with a surprising zest. If he turn back too soon, the breaker can crack his whip at him, as he orders him to get away, and fairly drive him to the fence.

The perfection of this work is simply this: When the dog is coming on toward the handler from his cast, the handler raises his right hand, holds it still for a little more than a second and then makes a slight wave. It all appears to be one motion, but the dog knows it is two and understands each thoroughly. He stops as though shot when he sees the hand go up and dashes away at the slight motion waving him back. When this is well done it is the perfection of dog breaking. The dog may be stopped and turned back as far as he can see the signal for him to do so, and the beauty of it all is the dog does it in the most cheerful spirit. In fact, when the dog is in high spirits he appears to take a delight in this lesson. He seems to feel he has acquired important knowledge, and he puts it in force as though he were doing something he never thought he could do.

This lesson may be carried so far that a large, strong dog will allow a young, lighter dog to be coupled to him while ranging, and will drag that dog along with him on the proper course. While both are coming in at full speed, the old dog will stop at the upraised hand, brace himself and hold his place in spite of the tugging at the coupling of the young dog, and when he succeeds in holding the young dog his countenance will light up with

a cheerful expression and he will wag his tail the while as if he thought it all great sport. Like all other performers, if the dog knows what to do and just how to do it, and just what he must not do, he is pleased with his work. There is no conflict of doubt and fear in the mind of the dog that knows his work thoroughly.

In a word, the dog whose work in quartering has been perfected, will always feel himself in the breaker's hand to be turned and twisted about at the breaker's will. Without orders, he will be disposed to quarter out his ground in the right way; the way in which he has been drilled at quartering.

CHAPTER XIX

DROPPING TO SHOT AND TO WING

AS a rule, dogs are taught to drop to order during their early education. Some breakers teach the drop the first thing, once they take their dog in hand for breaking. But such breakers do not teach their dogs To-ho, or in fact give them much yard breaking of any kind. Where a thorough system of breaking is undertaken it is not wise to teach the drop in the early stages of such breaking. The To-ho answers the purpose. Besides, if the dog is taught to drop at the time he is learning To-ho, he will confound the lessons and drop when it is not necessary for him to do so. Naturally, he will be disposed to drop when being taught to stand. Little attention should be paid to that at the time, but after the dog has been well drilled in quartering and understands that he is to stop at the order To-ho, or the uplifted hand he may be taught to drop to the order drop; to the discharge of a gun or the rise of birds.

The lesson in dropping to order or to the hand held straight out is soon learned. The dog is given the order to drop and is then placed in position and compelled to remain down.

When the dog will lie quietly while the breaker is near him he must be taught to keep his place while the breaker moves about. Whenever the dog moves the breaker should take him back to the spot where he was originally dropped and compel him to lie quiet. For the first lesson or two it will be wise to merely show the dog what is required of him, and force him down with the hands without inflicting any further punishment. But after this he should be taken by the collar and dragged back to his place rather roughly. Then he may be punished lightly with the whip while being dragged back to place and after he has been put in position. All the while the breaker is taking the dog back to place and is putting him down he should repeat the order "Drop." Loud at first but finally in a tone a little above a whisper.

While walking about when the dog is down, the breaker should hold his hand straight out and caution the dog now and again with the word drop. Because the dog will lie still after a time when he has been put down close to the handler

it must not be supposed that he will drop at the command when at a distance. He must first be taught to go down to order when close to the breaker. It will be found a very easy matter to force the dog down when near him. All that is necessary is to order him down and use the whip. Gradually the distance should be increased until he will drop both close to the handler and while far away.

Unless the dog has been thoroughly accustomed to the gun no attempt should be made at teaching to drop to shot. When, however, he is well used to the gun the breaker should call him in, put a short check cord on him and shoot a light charge, giving the order to "Drop," when the gun is discharged, being ready to give him a cut with the whip when he fails to drop instantly. When he goes down well at the report of the gun while close to the handler, he may be tried at a distance. If he fail to drop when the gun is discharged the breaker should at first use the order to drop, but after a few lessons of this kind the breaker is merely to discharge the gun and if the dog fails to drop he is to take him to the spot where he should have dropped and put him down, giving him a few cuts with the whip.

It will not take the dog long to associate the idea

of dropping with the report of the gun, and when he finds the breaker persists in forcing him down and punishing him with the whip as well, he will go down when the gun cracks.

This lesson is to be carried so far that the dog when going at a gallop will fall in his tracks the instant he hears the crack of the gun. Teaching to drop to wing is a similar lesson to that of dropping to shot. After the dog has pointed and the birds take wing, the breaker, standing at his side, will hit him with the whip and order him to drop just as the birds rise. In a short time the dog will not only drop with the rise of the birds, but he will anticipate the birds and drop before they take wing. If this is allowed to go too far the dog will get the habit of dropping to his points instead of standing up boldly.

The handsome, bold, upstanding setter, Champion Jessie Rodfields Count Gladstone, illustrates this point fairly. Some dogs are bold on their points by nature; others are disposed to crouch or drop. The breaker can help or hinder the dog's manner of standing to birds by his method of handling.

To forestall the dog the breaker should encourage him to stand by lifting him up when he has gone down in anticipation of the birds rising. He may

even let him stand to wing occasionally so as to further encourage him to be bold on his point.

What is really desired of the dog is that he will make up-standing points and slowly settle down as the birds rise. Some breakers do not teach their dogs to drop to shot or wing, or at least do not demand that they do so regularly, even when they teach these accomplishments in the beginning of their dog's breaking. They are satisfied if their dog remains standing when the birds rise or a shot is fired. There is some advantage in this, as it enables the dog to see the flight of the birds better and mark them as well as the dead birds more closely. However, the dog should be taught to drop in his first days afield, as it tends to steady him. If later the handler is satisfied to have his dog stand at the rise of birds and the report of the gun, he can reprimand and punish him should he go farther and become unsteady to wing or shot. Having broken him already to drop he will have the means of applying punishment the dog will understand.

In the old days of the muzzle-loader the dog was always broken to "Down, Charge," while the gun was being reloaded. It was a necessity then to have the dog go down and remain quiet for several moments. Now that necessity is not

felt, for the breechloader is so quickly reloaded that the "Down, Charge" has lost its practical force. Even if the dog move now a moment after a shot is fired the handler is ready to move on, too. All of which does not obviate the necessity of teaching young dogs to drop to wing and to shot.

Dogs with inferior scenting powers, when hunting single birds, will often flush close-lying birds. To each of such flushes the dog should be forced to drop, not only as a matter of discipline but because it has a tendency to make him cautious. If the dog is permitted to walk up one bird and continue on his way and flush still others it will have a tendency to make him careless and indifferent. To each flush of this kind he should go down as if shot, and when he refuses or hesitates the whip should be used.

The field trial handler does not like this method, because if his dog drops to a flush the flush will be more noticeable than it would be if he stood. The judges seeing the bird rise and seeing the dog down suspects the flush. When the dog stands to a flush the handler calls point instantly the bird starts, and the judges seeing the dog standing are not so certain that he flushed the bird. It has more the look of a close thing to a point, and what-

ever doubt there may be is set down to the dog's benefit.

Few field trial dogs drop either to shot or to wing. When the birds have been flushed the handlers are keen to get their dogs out at work again, and there is scarcely time for the dog to drop. The judges only require a dog to be steady to wing and shot and it does not matter whether they drop or stand.

CHAPTER XX

RANGING FOR QUAIL

INSTEAD of all the preliminary work which has been herein advised, the average professional breaker puts his dog to ranging for quail at once. He has not the time to give him a lot of preliminary work calculated to take some of the fire out of the dog. He expects to start his dog in the September field trial and run him through the season. He desires to show as much class as possible, and he takes as little of this out of him in breaking as is necessary to make him have fairly good manners. Besides wishing to avoid all the cost in time of preliminary work he does not care to set his dog back by over breaking. He puts him on birds at once and gets him to range as far and fast as possible. Speed, range and pointing are the things to which he pays particular attention.

But a more finished dog, and ultimately a better bird dog in every respect, can be made by the course already mapped out; that is, by laying

well the foundation of good manners and development. True, all the work spent in teaching certain accomplishments appears to have been ill-advised, because the dog is now not expected to do much quartering as he has been taught to quarter. Still, we shall see the importance of it when we set our dog to ranging for quail.

In the outset no attempt is to be made to get the dog to range wide. Short casts should be the rule to start with, and while the dog will not be required to cut up his ground in parallel lines, as he was taught to do while quartering, he will, nevertheless, be expected to work out the country in a general way on each side of his handler. Quartering being thoroughly fixed in him he will, naturally, swing around after he has made a short cast, and the chances are he will turn out as he comes around. All the time he is acquiring some knowledge of bird country, and he will be tempted to work out a likely piece of ground before coming around. But once he gets a habit of working out such ground while he is on it, he will, naturally, turn properly and cast over to the other side of the field. Whereas, dogs, not well drilled in quartering, are just as likely to cast the opposite way or go straight ahead to some piece of good ground they have sighted.

Now the difference between the two methods becomes apparent. The one dog has little or no method; the other chooses to go the right way. Some breakers are afraid to teach their dogs to quarter lest they get the habit so strongly they will leave good ground so as to carry out their idea of beating out the field in regular lines, going over barren ground to do so. There is no fear of that. Once the dog is thrown on his own resources and learns from actual experience the difference between good and poor ground, he will give up as much of his quartering as is necessary in order to follow out the dictates of his own judgment. He will hunt out the near ground and then swing over to the other side of the field. Or, in other words, he will be better able to keep his handler in view, and will work out the course as it should be worked. He will try to take in all the good ground on either side of his handler. The right kind of turning feeling he will have, and it will assert itself in such a way that the dog will cover the whole course instead of one side of it.

Dogs well broken to quarter will not have that wild, runaway class the other kind will show. They will have a closer and more systematic range. Naturally, they will not go out far at first, and they will probably show a disposition to come in too

much. But all this will wear off as the dog acquires more and more knowledge of hunting. Finally, he can be induced to go just as wide as the handler may desire to have him go, and at the same time retain some of the turning feeling, for a dog well broken will hunt wide to the gun as well as close.

A distinct advantage the well-broken dog will always have is in working on single birds, for he can easily be brought down from his wide racing pace to a more moderate pace for close work. On the scattered birds well marked down it is always an advantage to have a dog that will quarter and work the ground closely. Such a dog will, in the course of a very little time, come to know the difference between covey work and single bird work, and will, without much or any coaching, steady down, after the covey has been found and scattered, to the range and pace best adapted to such work. And when the handler is done with the single birds the dog will be off at the top of his speed searching for another covey. A great beauty of such a dog's performance is that he will do both kinds of work in a cheerful, sensible spirit, for he knows how. The dog which has never had the severe drilling necessary to an acquirement of this knowledge will fret when an

attempt is made to pull him down to a close, systematic range and a moderate pace. He will work single birds after a fashion, but he has little heart for that kind of work. He prefers to be racing away for the covey.

It sometimes happens that a dog which has been rather severely drilled at quartering and yard work will be disposed to range too closely. He will appear to be afraid to get well out and stay out, as he should. That need not disturb the breaker, for he can get the dog to go out by riding at a good pace on horseback without giving him any orders. But he must only hunt the dog when he is fresh and disposed to race away freely. Short bursts of less than a half hour each will tend to increase his range. When the dog has run that long he should be taken up and given a rest of ten or fifteen minutes, and again put down for a half hour. This will be all the work required of him for one day.

In trying to increase the dog's range an open country should be selected, in order that the dog may easily keep the handler in view. After he has been started the handler should follow him at a brisk walk, or he may occasionally let his horse step a little faster. After the dog has gone about as far as he thinks he should go on his cast

he will turn to come back. The handler will simply ride toward him, so as to induce him to turn and again go on his original course. As soon as he starts the handler should turn about and go at a good pace in the opposite direction. When the dog turns again he will not see the handler, but will come on until he brings him into view. In the meantime, the handler has reached a point far from the dog, and this gives the dog a new idea of distance. The handler can work him out in the same way on the other side of the course. He can vary this by galloping well out ahead of the dog when he is on a beat to one side. When the dog sees the handler he will, of a necessity, have to make a wide turn to get out in front of him.

In trying to push a dog out it is important that the handler so manage his movements that the dog will not find it difficult to locate him, for when the dog gets lost it will spoil the effects of the lesson. To avoid being lost again he may contract his range. When he feels that he can go fast and make wide casts without losing the handler he will be disposed to range more freely.

Sometimes it is well to permit the dog to range just as he chooses to range, and instead of requiring the dog to look him up the handler should always hunt the dog. This tends to make the

dog hunt more independently. He has little occasion to drop his work of hunting for birds and hunt for his handler.

It usually happens that there is a particular reason why the dog does not show a disposition to range freely. Primarily, it is because of his severe work at quartering. But there are special reasons. Whatever the cause, the breaker must try to understand it and shape his plans accordingly. Generally, short spurts with the breaker on horseback will force any dog with a contracted range to go wider and stay out at his work.

In teaching the dog to go out and stay out, it is a good idea to use the same course each day and for the breaker always to travel over practically the same line. By doing this the dog learns several important things: First, he knows just where to find his handler from any point on the course. He learns all the good places for birds and the places that are barren. He knows how to conserve his energy, because he will know the shortest cuts from one good piece of ground to another. As he learns the country thoroughly, and comes to know just where his handler is at all times, he will need have little thought of getting lost. When the handler finds some far point the dog likes to hunt well, he may slacken his pace,

or bear a little farther the other way, so as to put a little more distance between himself and the dog. If the dog shows a disposition to widen his range the breaker can encourage him by bearing in the dog's direction until the dog becomes accustomed to the new territory he has added to his range. By using frequently a particular route for the dog the breaker can do much to widen his range from time to time and finally get the dog to range as wide as he desires.

CHAPTER XXI

DEVELOPING THE POINTING INSTINCT

WE have very few setters, or pointers, whose breeding is worth talking about, but what have all the pointing instinct needed. As a rule, our bird dogs are over-anxious to point. Still, this pointing instinct needs to be developed properly. It is not enough that the dog will point. This he will do naturally if he has the opportunity. But, in developing the pointing instinct, there are a great many faults that the dog may acquire; faults that it will be difficult to eradicate. The breaker must be concerned with avoiding these faults and bringing out the best there is in the dog so that he will get the knack of making true points on game birds in a bold way.

One of the first faults a young dog will be likely to acquire in connection with pointing is chasing. After he has gotten the body scent of a covey of birds and has fairly pointed them a moment, he can scarcely resist the temptation to rush in, root

them up and give chase. This is to be expected, and the breaker may consider himself fortunate if his dog does not put up and chase the first birds he finds and points. It is better for the dog if this can be prevented, and to that end the breaker should anticipate his dog as far as possible and try to keep him from chasing the first time he points.

If the opportunity presents itself, he can take the dog in behind a pointing dog, on a check line, and hold him back by checking him, and when the birds are flushed he should check him hard and give him a smart cut with the whip, at the same time ordering him to drop.

Some care must be taken in carrying out this very simple method of getting the dog to understand he must drop to wing, instead of following the flushed covey, because if it is carried too far the dog may get a little touch of fright and form the habit of blinking. Much depends upon the dog and the pitch of his spirits. If he is timid and shy, he must be treated kindly. If he is bold and full of dash, he may be treated harshly. He may be given an opportunity to break in after he has first been dropped, just for the purpose of getting a good chance to check him again and force him to remain down with the whip. Such opportun-

ities do not come as often as the breaker might wish them to come. For that reason the most must be made of them.

What is of first concern is that the dog will point and not chase. It does not matter much in the beginning whether or not the dog is stanch. This quality can be taught with little trouble at a later period. The object now is to get the dog to point. Most likely that after the dog has flushed several coveys he will come upon birds under such favorable circumstances of wind and scenting that he will stop naturally, and this can be largely brought about by taking the dog afield in good scenting weather at a time of day when the birds will be on the move. This will, in most localities, be in the morning about nine o'clock and about four, or later, in the afternoon. If there is any air stirring the dog should be so hunted as to get the benefit of it.

At this time, after the dog has been cast off, very little should be done that will interfere with his movements further than that the handler will so arrange his course as to have the dog come upon favorable ground in the best way calculated to secure a point. If the dog strike hot foot scent and point it, he should be humored, although at a later period he should not be permitted to dwell

on foot scents. So far, the dog knows little about the difference in scents, and if the foot scent will start his pointing machinery in motion, it will help the dog along toward getting easily into his points. At all events, as soon as the dog points, the handler should try to get in front of him, going in somewhat of a circuitous route, rather than attempting to pass him by coming up from behind. Having gotten in front of the dog, the next move will be to get near enough to lay hands on him, or get hold of the short check cord that he should hunt with at this time. Once the breaker can reach the cord there is little danger of the dog doing much damage. The most he can do is to make a rush for the birds. If the breaker has anticipated this, as he should, he will be prepared to check the dog severely, and bring him to drop with several cuts of the whip, ordering him to drop, as he checks him and uses the whip. And he should be made to drop at the identical place where he pointed.

When the dog has been ordered sharply to drop and has heard the order repeated in the same tone with each of three or four strokes of the lash, the breaker should lower his tone and slowly lay the whip lightly on the dog, repeating the order and using the whip several times, each succeeding order and each fall of the whip being slower and

milder, until he shall speak just above a whisper and merely lay the whip on the dog's back. All this must be done in an impressive way, and when the whip is slowly rolled up and put in the breaker's pocket he should slowly reach down and stroke the dog, using the word drop, as he does so.

There should be no hurry in following the birds, and unless they went to good cover it were better to search for a new covey than to work on these. If the cover in which they went is favorable to good work, the dog should be taken there and the ground hunted out to the best advantage. Most likely the dog will do some flushing. When he puts up a bird he should be taken to the place where he was when the bird got up and forced to drop. Here he should be kept for a few moments, when he may be ordered on again.

The breaker need not be discouraged if his dog flush all the single birds. He may feel well pleased if he gets one good point. The dog wishes to point, but does not know how to find birds and point them. Flushing gives him experience and tends to make him cautious. As he gains in experience he will have knowledge that will help him.

In the early days of his experience with game the dog has little idea of the difference between foot scents, roosts and body scent. But experi-

ence will soon teach him. At first, he will be sure to point the hot foot scent. Soon, however, he will learn to draw on toward the body scent, and when he feels that in his nose he will point stanchly until, perhaps, he is possessed of the desire to rush in and put up the birds.

While the dog is not to be encouraged to point the foot scent, it is all well enough to allow it for a time. Anything to get a point at first will do. But as soon as he points the body scent and has had enough experience to discriminate between the two, he should be given his head when he stops on foot scent and be allowed to work out the problem in his own way.

Get him to pointing coveys as much as possible, for he can handle a covey of fifteen birds much easier than he can one. Any dog with a fair nose should have little difficulty in pointing a covey, once he has the desire to do so and has his pointing instincts working smoothly. As often as he gets a point on a covey the handler should try to get to him and get his hands on him. But he is not to go to him as though he were a stone. The breaker must bear in mind that the dog is wrought up to a very high pitch and may either be held in the mood or disturbed by the action of his breaker. What the breaker should do is to similate some-

thing of the dog's feeling and approach him with smooth, quiet, slow action. He should draw on the dog as if he feared to disturb him. Sudden movements at this time are calculated to startle the dog, and especially is the dog likely to grow nervous if any one approaches him from behind. To go toward the dog from one side and a little ahead of him does not hurt his feelings so much, particularly if he is approached very slowly.

If the breaker feels sure from the way the dog points that he has birds, and can lay his hands on him, the dog is made, as far as pointing stanchly is concerned.

When the breaker gets to him, let him go to his left side and stroke him very slowly from his head to the tip of his tail, saying, meanwhile, in a slow, low voice, "To-ho! To-ho!" When the breaker puts his right hand on his back he should have the left hand under his throat, but in no case is to lay a heavy hand upon him, unless he attempts to break. Now, let the breaker run his hand back over the dog's body until he reaches the root of the dog's tail. Now let him raise the dog slowly and gently off his hind feet and put him back again in position. Then the breaker should go cautiously behind the dog, all the time, however, keeping one hand on him. Again let him lift the

dog by the tail, and finally let him push the dog gently and steadily from behind. He is not to push the dog out of his tracks, but he is to push against the dog's haunches so as to induce the dog to set back against him. Once the dog does that he is in a fair way to become a stanch dog.

This must not be carried too far at the first trial; just far enough to get the dog to resist against being pushed forward. Then the birds may be put up, the handler having a check cord on the dog to prevent him from breaking in at the rise of the birds. If the dog attempts it he should be punished. In any event, when the birds rise he should be given a cut with the whip in order to make him obey promptly the accompanying order to drop, and to get the idea of dropping to wing.

Dogs have a peculiar fondness for being handled while on a point, provided the handling is done well. Ordinarily, they grow nervous at the approach of another dog or their handler while on point, and their natural inclination is to go in and put up the birds. Dogs are often stanch while no one is near them, and they will remain on point with their handler twenty-five yards away, if he remains still, but so soon as he starts toward the dog the dog will begin to show signs of nervous-

ness, and before the handler reaches him he will go in, put up the birds and run away.

All this can be avoided by anticipating the pointing dog's likes and dislikes in the beginning. Once the breaker gets to his dog and handles him a little on point he will have little trouble in getting to him again. When he does so he should carry the lesson in handling on point a little further than he did at the first lesson. He should smooth him gently, as before, pick him up by the tail and drop him, push him forward, and then try setting his hind parts to first one side and then the other. Then he may pick him up bodily and drop him back into his point. Going still further, he may pick up the dog and throw him a step forward, and finally he may throw him right into the birds. Always the dog will strike the ground on a point, and if he is twisted completely around he will point over his shoulder. This is the idea to be aimed at, and it will be the breaker's fault if it does not become an accomplished fact. Well managed, the breaker will be surprised to find how obstinately stanch his dog will become after three or four such treatments as are here recommended.

The breaker, having gotten his dog so stanch that he will hold his point in spite of being pushed

and pulled about, should now go a little further and teach his dog to remain stanch while he comes upon him, either quietly or noisily from behind.

Some of our best field trial dogs are not always to be trusted when the handler comes up to them from behind. They show a little nervousness, and sometimes move up a step or two toward the birds. The handler does not approach them with the confidence that should be had in a field trial campaigner, for he begins to caution his dog long before he gets to him and continues his words of caution until he reaches his side. This same dog, so nervous on point when his handler is near, will get lost on the course and hold his point stanchly for a half hour.

The fault the dog has is a serious one and is the result of nervousness induced by the noise he hears of the handler walking behind him. If taken in hand in the early part of his pointing experience, the dog can be made so stanch that no matter how he is approached he will hold his point. It is merely a matter of getting him accustomed to the conditions that upset him.

In the beginning, the handler is to approach his dog from behind cautiously, and stop occasionally on his way to the dog and say To-ho, quietly. Then he should move up, and using

the word, To-ho, softly, gently lay his hand on the dog's tail. He should hold it there a moment, then give it a long, slow stroke and finally lay hold of it firmly and slowly lift the dog and set him down again. After he has repeated this several times he should push the dog so as to induce the dog to settle back against him.

Now the handler should walk away to the rear, making sufficient noise to let the dog know of his movement. Then he should approach him again in the same manner as before directed.

The next time the dog points this is to be repeated, and in addition the handler should approach the dog from different directions. Sometimes he should move up on the dog noiselessly. Again he should make much noise; always, however, when he comes upon the dog he is to lay his hands on his haunches and push him gently.

In a little while the breaker will notice that just as he gets near the dog, and before he has a chance to lay hands on him, the dog will settle back as if to resist the push he expects. This is the idea the handler must strive to get into the dog's head: the idea of settling back when the handler approaches, instead of the tendency to move forward.

When the handler feels he can trust his dog

further, he should approach him with considerable noise. He may whistle, sing, or if he is a little to one side of the dog so that he may be seen, he may jump and make other sudden movements. In the end, he may go to his dog so stealthily that the dog will not know of his whereabouts until he is upon him, or he may go to him on a run, cracking his whip or shooting his gun as he goes. Always, however, when he reaches the dog he should lay gentle hands on him and press him forward until he resists the pressure.

A dog which has been well handled on his points in the manner herein described will hold his point stanchly under the most trying circumstances. Other dogs may draw past him and steal his point, they may rush in and put up his birds, or run into him hard enough to knock him over. He will take it all cheerfully. He simply knows his business and likes it, having no desire to do the things he should not do. Such a dog may be picked up by the collar and the root of the tail and tossed squarely into the middle of a big covey of birds, and while the birds are fluttering all around him he will remain quiet.

The breaker who is anxious to shoot over points will not have much success in making his dog stanch. The killing of birds over points has some

value toward developing the dog, but it is largely theoretical. The dog cares less for the birds than is generally thought. It is a very pretty sentiment to suppose that the dog desires to help his master fill the game bag. What he really likes is the point on the body scent. This is to him as an intoxicating pleasure, no matter how unreasonable it may look to us. The scent of the dead bird has little charm for the dog unless he can find and point it. After the bird has been secured the dog really cares little for it. We have no way of accounting for the dog's intense desire to point, except that it is his nature to point. Pointing is the dominant instinct in pointer and setter, firmly fixed by long continued breeding. With the bird dog the point is the thing.

When the dog has been made thoroughly stanch he still has much to learn about pointing. Covey pointing is easy for the dog, since a large number of birds moving about leaves a great deal of scent that serves to apprise the dog of the fact that he is near birds before he comes upon them. There is a right and wrong way to find birds after the dog has tasted the foot scent, and much depends upon the handler whether or not the dog is developed in the right way.

As a rule, the dog coming upon a hot foot scent

will point stanchly; he will show just a little tendency to move on after he has pointed a moment, and, more than likely, the handler will check him with To-ho!

The handler by doing this checks the dog's development in the right direction. He is being held on a point on foot scent when his natural inclination is to go on and reach the body scent. The handler, afraid of a flush, checks the dog and after getting to his side, allows him to draw and point on the foot scent until he comes to the birds. In the course of time the dog is taught to point foot scents against his wish, and eventually the habit becomes so fixed that he will point roosts as well as foot scents, all of which is very bad for the dog.

The well broken dog does not dwell on foot scent. If he runs across a hot foot scent he will be likely to jump into a point and stand for an instant, just long enough to collect his thoughts and map out his course of action. He knows he has a foot scent, and he suspects the birds are near. He does not want to flush them, but he does want to get a good point on the body scent.

All this goes on in the dog's mind during the short space of time he is standing on the foot scent. Finally, he determines the direction in

which the birds traveled and away he goes to find them, either by breaking away from the foot scent entirely and feeling for the birds in the distance as he quarters up on their course, or by drawing directly to them through the aid of the foot scent, or trail.

This will usually happen if the handler remain quiet and permit the dog to have his head and work out the proposition in his own way. But the handler does not always do this. He is afraid the dog will flush. Just as the dog has concluded his reasoning process and has determined how he will go about finding the birds, the handler yells To-ho! and spoils it all. If the dog persists in doing the right thing the handler may use harsh means to compel him to remain standing.

The handler who is skillful in anticipation and knows his dog's emotional expressions well, will understand the moment his dog stops on a foot scent just what the scent is and what is going on in the dog's mind. He will know what the dog will be likely to do next, and as this is the right thing for him to do the handler should assist, rather than hinder him.

Instantly the dog jumps into a point on foot scent the handler should out with his whip, crack it sharply and say, "Get away, there! Get away!"

Taking the cue from the dog the handler may be pretty sure of the direction of the birds, and toward them he should quarter his dog at full gallop, driving him bang into a point with the whip.

Of course there is danger of driving the dog into the birds, but that will not hurt him. On the contrary, it will do him good. It will serve to make him more cautious; that is, while he is galloping for birds he will cover the ground well ahead of him with his nose and will be ready to go into his point like a flash.

When a dog learns this lesson well he will get such confidence in himself that he will hunt without faltering until he feels the body scent. The foot scents will not disturb him. He is keyed up to the very highest pitch. Instinct and intelligence are working accurately in perfect harmony. The dog knows what he is looking for, and he knows just about how far he will be able to reach for the body scent. He feels out all the ground within range of his nose, earnestly looking for the body scent. The faintest touch brings him to a point, and then to get a better taste of the scent he may draw up a pace or two. It is a proud point a dog makes on occasions of this kind, and the whole performance with the dog all afire with enthusiasm, tempered with caution, is the highest

expression of setter or pointer work on game. It is the kind of work that fires up the sportsman who sees it, and one such point gives more genuine pleasure than a number slovenly made.

Dogs, which get accustomed to merely checking on a hot foot scent and then break away and quarter up to the body scent on a gallop, are no more likely to flush than the dog which tries to sneak up into a point on the body scent by following the trail with his nose down. Such dogs get their attention riveted so closely on the foot scent, and get their nose so full of it that they often get too close to the birds before they recognize the scent.

Sometimes the breaker may find it difficult to get the dog to break away from the foot scent and quarter up to the birds on a gallop. The dog may want to follow the foot scent. This is all well and good, provided the dog does not put his nose to the ground. If he will look ahead of him and march straight upon the foot scent at a good pace, he should be encouraged. But he must not be allowed to dwell or potter. He must get into the way of thinking and acting quickly. When he falters on the trail, the breaker should crack his whip and urge him on. Let him get into the habit of picking up a hot trail and rushing as

fast as possible into a point on the birds themselves.

When it comes to single bird work the dog should be taught the difference between this and covey work.

At first, it is well to call the dog to heel after the covey has been flushed and marked down. But there must be no haste in going to the single birds. The dog should be kept at the drop a little while. It will serve to steady him for the work before him.

Approaching the scattered birds from the most favorable side, the dog should be compelled to quarter at a moderate pace. A good dog of experience can pick up single birds at a gallop in good scenting weather, provided he is upheaded and hunts well out, instead of looking for birds under his feet. It is not necessary, however, to hunt the dog at a fast pace on single birds. The main thing is that the dog be kept going at a steady pace and range close to his handler; that is, he should quarter out a strip about one hundred yards wide, working back and forth across the ground in front of his handler. Pottering is not to be tolerated. If the dog find a foot scent and shows a disposition to nose it, the handler should crack the whip at him and force him on.

By keeping the dog going steadily he will be

more likely to hunt for body scents in the distance than he would if permitted to lag. When the dog slows up he has a very natural inclination to put his nose to the ground. Should he do this he must be urged to go on and keep going at a steady pace.

When the handler takes his dog to scattered birds he should change his manner somewhat. He should take on an air of caution, which he will make manifest by walking cautiously, speaking low, carrying his gun at ready, and in other ways that may occur to him carrying out the idea of caution. If he does this, as a rule, the dog will come to learn from the handler's manner that he is expected to steady down and hunt the ground out closely and in regular parallels.

By persevering in this method the dog will know after the covey has been flushed that he is to change his method of hunting and get down to single bird work. When the handler is done with the single birds he should change his manner, throw his gun on his shoulder, and, assuming a careless air, order his dog to "Get away," and the dog should then go out at the top of his speed and search for the covey.

It should be added that in teaching a dog to hunt single birds properly a great many birds will be flushed, because the dog will not quite go in his

own way. For that reason he will have his mind on the handler so much he will often flush a bird that he should have pointed. But, after he has been forced to work single birds in the way his handler would have him work, he may be given his head. By that time he will have formed the habit of working properly and it will come easy and natural to him, and that is the best expression, doing the right thing easily and naturally.

CHAPTER XXII

SLUGGISH POINTING INSTINCTS

FREQUENTLY, a dog with the very best intentions fails to get a good point after having had repeated good opportunities to do so. He may have all the minor instincts that go to make up what we call the pointing instinct, but for various reasons these elements of the pointing instinct do not operate smoothly. Sometimes the dog is attracted by the foot scent and becomes so absorbed in that he draws into the birds without having known they were so close to him. Even after such a dog gets the necessary knowledge to make it possible to distinguish between the foot scent and the body scent, he fails to point. He may stop on a hot trail and road along cautiously, but he does not know how to use the one as a help to finding the other. He gets the habit of nosing the ground and roading into his birds.

Perhaps a dog may have the point feeling and intend to stop, but before he can get his pointing

instincts to working together he puts up the birds and the point feeling leaves him.

Dogs that are slow to begin pointing, when they appear to be willing to point, are not to be thrashed for the errors they make. They must be developed. Their instincts must be brought to work harmoniously, and then, once they get to working as they should, they will easily all flash into action at once.

The pointing instinct, it should be noted, is, in fact, the result of a number of instincts working together so rapidly that the operation appears to be the work of a single entity. The dog catches the scent, and this sets nerves and muscles that enter into the making of a point in motion. There are many of these nerves and muscles, and if one lag the point is likely to be spoiled. All must flash into action at once as soon as the dog's nose gives the signal.

It is no wonder that many dogs which have never tried their pointing instincts should fail in an attempt to bring them all into action at once. Not being accustomed to working together they do not always go into that absolutely instant action necessary to a good point. When, after a little experience, they get used to working together, they will operate smoothly and with accuracy.

The dog which has trouble in the beginning of his field work with his pointing instincts is likely to contract some disagreeable faults that tend to make it still more difficult for him to point, try as he may. The worst of these is nosing the foot scent.

Several methods may be used to help the dog into a point. One good way is to find a covey with a reliable old dog, take him away and then gallop the dog under training up to the birds, taking care to give him the benefit of the wind and to have him quarter up to the birds. Once the dog is started, and makes one or two good casts, he should be given his head, no further attempt being made to have him quarter, except that he must be kept going at a good pace, because this will have a tendency to keep his head up so he may catch the body scent. The first whiff of the scent will cause him to check his pace, and in all probability he will put his nose to the ground. In this the breaker should anticipate him and be ready with voice and whip to start him on. He may be galloped past the birds, then brought around again so that he will get the scent in his nose as he goes on his course past them. If he catch the scent well he may keep his head up and walk into it. This is what is desired. Nothing should be

said to him if he walk right into the birds with the body scent in his nose. It will give him some knowledge he may make good use of on a similar occasion. If he catches the scent well back from the birds and draws toward them with head up, he may finally steady down into a point before he reaches the birds.

At any rate, the drawing toward the body scent with head up will be good exercise for a portion of his pointing instinct, and if they do not bring the rest of the nerve forces and muscles into play at this time they will be more likely to do so on another occasion. If he does draw into a point he should be held on point for a while, then quietly dropped, when the birds rise, and allowed to calm himself.

When this plan fails, the dog should be taught to back by rushing him at an upstanding pointing dog. Even this method of teaching to back may fail, because of the sluggishness of the dog's pointing instincts, in which case he may be taken close up to a pointing dog on a lead and be compelled to stand until the birds are flushed.

It will generally be found that dogs with sluggish pointing instincts are given to pottering on foot scents. It may not be that they are naturally potterers, but they take to the foot scent because

they are not able to handle body scents. If they could have the satisfaction of pointing birds they would not be so much disposed to fool on foot scents.

Dogs of this kind are helped by yard breaking. They get the idea of stopping quickly, and then when they are taught to draw on their food and stop occasionally to order, they get the idea of drawing into a point. Still, they may forget all this when they get on birds. The excitement of the moment appears to drive all else out of their head, save the desire to do something with the birds before them.

Even though it take months to get a dog's sluggish instincts to working properly, the breaker should not be discouraged, for the dog will, eventually, get the right idea and then give no more trouble on that score.

All the while the dog is unable to make a point he is to be treated very much as though his pointing instincts were working well. He should be given regular work in the field, should be taught how to range wide for coveys and work close for single birds. Let him put up his coveys and let him jump on his single birds, but do not allow him to potter.

After the dog is able to rush into his points and

backs as he should, he will probably have the tendency to still potter on foot scents. This, he must not be allowed to do. The moment he puts his head down he should be driven away with the whip. On scattered birds he should be hunted at a good, steady clip without much regard to the flushes he may make, so as to have him keep his nose from the ground.

It is a grave mistake to hunt any young dog after he has become tired, but it is particularly bad to hunt a dog of this kind after he begins to lag in his work, for the tired dog is nearly always disposed to potter. While fresh, and in good spirits, dogs are generally more eager for the body scent.

Some dogs of good breeding appear to have no pointing instinct whatever, although it is a very rare thing to see a setter, or pointer, which is matured, without a show of this instinct. Still, there are dogs of this kind. They have the instinct, but for some reason or other it is dormant and is not easily aroused. Such dogs may hunt and find birds, but make no attempt whatever to point.

There is nothing to do with a dog of this kind but attempt to arouse his instincts by putting him frequently on birds and holding him back of a pointing dog. Usually, dogs of this kind will show signs of drawing on foot scents and making

occasional stops, after they have been frequently run into birds. If this kind of treatment does not bring out their latent instinct, nothing will, and they might as well be given up as not being worth further trouble.

CHAPTER XXIII

TEACHING TO BACK

BACKING is another form of expression for the pointing instinct. Dogs which are properly taught to back appear often to derive the same pleasure from backing a pointing dog that they have in pointing birds themselves. They get the same opportunity to give expression to their pointing instincts in pointing another dog that they get pointing birds. All of which would seem to indicate that they do not care so much for the scent of birds as we are disposed to think they do. The point is what they like, and the birds seem to be incident to the point and are of themselves not the all-important factor at least. The dog hunts and finds birds that he may point. He points the pointing dog often with as much apparent pleasure as he points birds.

Still the birds, even if the backing dog cannot smell them, have an influence on the backing dog, for some of the best of old experienced dogs will not take much interest in the points if a dog is

given to false pointing. They will back the first point, although it be false, with all the enthusiasm they possess, and then, after the point has been determined false, will sneak away as though they were ashamed of themselves. The next time one of these good dogs is called upon to back the dog whose false point he had honored so well, he will shy away from the pointing dog or else back him in a lifeless half-hearted way. He backs such a dog under protest and takes little or no pleasure in the work. Other dogs thoroughly reliable in all respects will back the false pointing dog once but will have nothing further to do with his points, be they true or false.

The young dog is not so particular about his backing, but when the wise old dog puts all his fire into a good back he wants to know that his efforts have not been wasted. He is not satisfied unless birds are found ahead of the pointing dog.

Bird dogs are very sympathetic creatures and derive pleasure in copying moods. For that reason much has been said in regard to the different airs and manners the breaker should assume on different occasions for the dog's benefit. Sympathy has much to do with the dog's backing, and in fact the back is truly a sympathetic point. When the wise old dog which would scorn to make a

false point, falls in sympathy with a dog on point, he is naturally pleased to find the point a true one, but he gets all out of sorts when he has been deceived into falling in sympathy with a false pointing dog. It is small wonder, then, that he sneaks away with a look of sheepishness.

With this view of backing it is plain to be seen that there should be little trouble in teaching backing. As a matter of fact it is a simple lesson, and as a rule the dog will pretty nearly learn it himself if he has the opportunity and is not interfered with.

The greatest difficulty about this lesson is the difficulty of breaking the breaker, for in a large majority of cases the breaker will not follow instructions. He may be sure he will, but he does not quite know himself, and at the critical moment he will do the very thing he is directed not to do and spoil the whole job.

This appears to be pretty strong language but it is not put a bit too forcibly, for time and time again this very thing has been clearly demonstrated. Let the breaker who has never attempted to teach a dog to back, or one who has not been successful with backing dogs, try to carry out the simple instructions that will be given him, and then at night let him examine his course critically

and see if he has not fallen short of following directions. He may find that he has followed directions carefully except as to some minor detail that is of no consequence, but that little minor detail is what prevented the dog from backing.

Here is the simplest and most effective way to get a dog to back: Have the pointing dog on a stiff, upstanding point in a place where he can be seen easily. Work the young dog well back of him in his direction. While the young dog is making a cast to right or left the handler should get a little to the opposite side of the pointing dog, so that when the young dog comes around and starts toward the handler he will cross close enough to the pointing dog so that he will be likely to see him. Now the handler should stand perfectly still and look toward the dog on point and allow his own dog to do just as he pleases. The handler must not whistle, make any movements with hands or feet or give any verbal orders to his dog. If his dog passes the pointing dog without seeing him, still he must not move or speak. If his dog does see the pointing dog and checks himself and then draws slowly toward the pointing dog he must not speak.

This is a greater temptation in fact than it appears to be on paper. Few men can stand dumb

as a statue and see their dog draw on slowly toward a pointing dog; just one little word of caution, they are sure, will bring the dog to a full stop, but just that one little word distracts the dog just enough to have him move on, whereas had all been quiet he would in all probability have stopped. He was quieting down all the time toward a complete stop when he was interfered with. Perhaps the dog will not back well the first time he is tried, even if all is still. He will get some of the right kind of feeling though, which will be of help to him the next time he tries to back. Even if the dog draw on at the first attempt and joins the pointing, he should not be interfered with. The fault committed is more of an error than anything else. The next time he may do better. At all events he must be given a number of trials. In all probability he will on one of these occasions fall in sympathy with the pointing dog and make a fair back.

Once he stops long enough for the handler to get to him, he can be made as stanch behind as he is on birds. The same treatment is to be given him while backing that is laid down for making the pointing dog stanch. The dog is to be made to like the back, just as he likes the point. When the birds are flushed the backing dog is to drop to wing

just as the pointing dog does and he is to remain down until ordered on.

Many breakers are very thoughtless about asking their young dog to back what is evidently a false point. Where there is the least doubt as to the character of the point to be used for teaching backing, the point should not be used. As pointed out already in this chapter dogs do not really like to back a false pointing dog. Many of them do it as a matter of duty, but they prefer to back a true point. The young inexperienced dog will enjoy backing true points and will therefore learn that part of his work in the field easily and well. But if he is fooled a few times by a false pointer he will not make the progress he would had he never been called upon to back a false point.

The perfection of backing is of course seen in real brace work, where two dogs are habitually worked together. This work will be noticed in the chapter on brace work.

When it is possible the breaker should get between the pointing dog and the dog he is trying to teach to back. That is, when the dog is ranging far to one side, the breaker should step up close to the pointing dog and taking an attitude of caution face the pointing dog and back him; the young

dog coming on and seeing his handler motionless will be attracted by his attitude, and although he may gallop toward him he will be likely to stop before he reaches him. At all events if he sees handler and pointing dog he will be impressed, and if he does not stop at the first trial he will be likely to do so at the next. This is one of the things to be tried to induce the young dog to back.

Sometimes it is well to let the young dog draw on the pointing dog while the handler holds him in check with a check cord. In using this method the dog is to lead toward the pointing dog but is not to be directed in any way. He is just to be given the opportunity to see the pointing dog and if he will he may be allowed to draw for a short distance, then he should be held in check with the cord. During this lesson all must be quiet as possible.

CHAPTER XXIV

EMOTIONAL EXPRESSIONS

THE study of emotional expressions is highly essential to good breaking or handling. Setters and pointers have a very flexible set of emotions, and there is scarcely a feeling which they do not indicate by some outward manifestation. As they have a great variety of feelings, the setter and pointer may be said to have a language of considerable importance. Some dogs have a large vocabulary, by means of which they are able to make known the various degrees of the same general feeling. Others have a small vocabulary and do not, therefore, express the variations of a feeling in such minute detail as the dog does which has more expressions at his command.

The highly emotional dog is constantly talking to his handler and if his feelings as expressed are understood the handler may know at all times the dog's moods. When the dog is ranging for quail

or other birds he shows in many ways just how he feels and the handler may form a pretty good notion of the character of work his dog will do. When on birds the dog will express his feelings in pantomime so accurately that the handler who can interpret correctly may know just what is going on in the dog's mind. When the dog crosses a cold trail he makes it known by a wag of his tail and a degree of animation he will put on at once. If it is a hot trail the wag of the tail is sharper, the expression of his countenance and, in fact, his whole being, becomes more intensely animated. When he approaches the birds he gives expression to new feelings and these again are changed when the birds are actually found. If he stops as if in doubt, the kind of a stand he makes is easily distinguished from the true point on the body scent or the anticipatory point on the foot scent.

Dogs which have the faculty of giving expression freely to their feelings add greatly to the pleasure of the sportsman, merely because of the beauty of the work. Apart from this it has a utilitarian side of no mean value. To know what your dog is doing and to be able to anticipate his next move is knowledge of real value in the shooting field. It is of special value to the breaker, for the dog which gives free expression to his feel-

ings can be broken more easily, and possibly better than the dog which runs "mute."

The breaker who knows the language of his dog will need never to be at fault concerning the particular thing the dog may be doing. When he is on game, if some manner of nervousness possess him, his breaker will be advised in time to prevent some rash act. If he feels particularly well he will make it known. On game he will always keep the breaker advised as to what is going on in his mind. Even when he anticipates doing something he should not do, the breaker may know his intention from his expressions. The dog which points a quail roost has an expression for this kind of a point, and if the breaker is familiar with it he can drive his dog away with the whip. On the other hand, not knowing his dog's emotional expressions well, he might try to get up birds from such a point, doing the dog much damage thereby. And so in all of the dog's work the breaker can handle him better for his knowing how to interpret his feelings.

Most setters and pointers are truthful in giving expression to their feelings. But there are those which will give expression to falsehoods. Nearly always this is the fault of the handler.

When the dog has been in doubt and so ex-

pressed himself, the handler has not properly interpreted him. He has put another meaning on the dog's expression, and instead of permitting the dog to clear the doubt in his own way, the breaker has urged him to another conclusion and so the dog has been either persuaded or forced to a conclusion he would not naturally have reached. For example, the dog catches a faint scent of game in a choppy wind. He points at once, and then as the scent is lost from the veering of the wind, he doubts his first conclusion and so expresses himself. The breaker, seeing that he has relaxed somewhat from his positive point and shows an intention to move, yells To-ho! and insists on his dog remaining stanch. The dog obeys, and after a few repetitions of this kind or similar interference, the dog holds fast to points he should break.

The breaker must be able to interpret those shades of expression that range between positive assertions and doubts. He can know them and all other emotional expressions by giving them close study. He will find, too, that the knowledge that he may gain on this subject will help him materially in breaking his dog. It will prevent a waste of energy and the dog will be a better performer for it in the end.

Dogs have a liking for those who understand them and they feel otherwise to those who cannot understand their language. The dog not only has a fondness for the breaker who knows his expressions, but he will do more for him than he will for one who cannot read his thoughts through his language. Where this understanding is as the dog likes to have it, the dog is always a more cheerful and willing dog and the cheerful and willing dog is the easiest to break and develop.

How far the breaker may go in understanding the language of his dog depends largely upon the breaker's willingness and ability to apply himself. The setter and pointer expressions are not all plain. It requires close study to find them and understand their meaning. Those expressions of intense feeling that are frequently before the breaker's eyes are simple enough for understanding without special study. They impress themselves on the breaker at once. But the more delicate feelings which the dog has he makes manifest in an equally delicate way. It is these that the breaker will find difficulty in discovering. But once he learns the delicate feelings and can interpret the expressions of such feelings, they will appear plain enough. The great trouble with many breakers is that they do not attach sufficient

importance to the milder expressions of the dog's feelings and they do not realize how much knowledge may be acquired on this subject by close study.

Those of us who are blessed with eyesight do not quite appreciate the delicacy and the accuracy of the feeling and the hearing of the blind. Constant study and the necessity for quickening their touch and hearing gives the blind a sense which we do not have. The blind man will pick out individuals they know by their step, although they may be walking with others on a crowded thoroughfare. They know horses and dogs by their movements and they know a surprising amount of things merely through their touch. It is all a matter of study, just as a knowledge of bird dog expressions are a matter of study.

We may divide the setter and pointer feeling into two large general classes like pleasant and unpleasant feelings. Then we may subdivide these feelings into smaller groups of feelings. It is very easy from the dog's expressions to determine when he is pleased. But to tell what the particular pleasure or pain is of which he is possessed, is more difficult. It is harder still to know the degree of feeling that the dog has about particular things.

We can know from the dog's style when he

strikes game just what feelings he has and the degree of pleasure he undergoes. We can know that he is certain or in doubt about the location of birds he is working on. We can know his single bird point expression, his expression for a covey, dead bird, wounded bird, body scent and various states of foot scents. We can know the things which do not please him. His language is for those who will take the trouble to learn it by hard, close study.

CHAPTER XXV

TEACHING EMOTIONAL EXPRESSIONS

WHILE it is highly important that the breaker should learn to interpret correctly the emotional expressions of his dog, it is equally necessary that the dog learn to interpret the emotional expressions of his handler. When the dog has been taught to read the handler's mind through his emotional expressions he may be handled without the use of many spoken words. Orders may be given the dog which he will understand and obey promptly, although the handler use neither words nor signs that are noticeable. In fact this reading of the breaker's mind may be carried so far that the dog will know it from the handler's emotional expressions just as the handler knows the dog's mind from his emotional expressions.

This work is not for the novice. It is the very last stage of dog breaking and is one of those finishing touches that only a master hand at dog

breaking can give his dog. There is no harm, however, in the work being attempted by a green hand, for it will not hurt the dog if the novice makes a failure of his first attempt. Besides, if he does not have a full measure of success he will help his dog a little and himself a great deal. As a matter of fact all breakers, consciously or unconsciously, do something themselves in way of reading their dog's feelings. And all dogs try to read the feelings of their handler. But it is not done in the systematic way it should be done in order to reach a high degree of success.

Dogs are much more given to a study of their handler's expressions of feeling than is generally supposed. Without being schooled in the art, they naturally interpret the handler's moods and try to understand from mere appearances what the handler desires them to do. This natural tendency to study a language they are forced to use among themselves is a good foundation upon which to rest a systematic course of training for the dog in this very desirable art.

It is of first importance that the breaker so train himself that he will always use the same expression for a particular feeling. He will find this more difficult than it would at first thought appear to be. He may grow careless at times, or he may fail to

see the significance of what he would regard as a slight change in manner or a change in some related action. The dog will notice these very quickly, for with him feelings are often associated with related things that have no logical connection in the breaker's mind.

Take for example a single performance, that of expressing a feeling of caution when the breaker advances on single birds. The breaker advances with long, slow strides; his gun is held before him as if holding himself in readiness for a rising bird. Instead of setting his feet down flatly, the breaker touches his heel to the ground first, he picks his feet up carefully. As the dog comes by him, or rather as he approaches, the breaker puts his hand straight out before him, palm down, and moves it slowly and steadily in the direction the dog is going. Perhaps he says, "Sh! Steady! Steady!" moving the while cautiously. He has the cautious feeling and he gives it as much expression as possible. And the dog catches the meaning and falls into sympathy with the breaker's feeling. Should the breaker on the next occasion carry his gun carelessly over his shoulder the dog would notice it. Should he change any of his manners the dog would notice it and the effect intended would be marred. The breaker's forces should be

bent to express caution. He must have the feeling, and as near as possible give it expression always in the same way.

Some first simple lessons for the dog's benefit are essential to a better knowledge of the more subtle expressions of the breaker's feelings. The dog must be taught to look earnestly for these outward signs, must learn their meaning when he sees them and must understand that he is to obey them instantly.

After the dog has been well advanced in his breaking the breaker should drop him and throw an object out for him to retrieve. The dog, of course, has already been taught to retrieve. He knows he is to lie still until he hears his name spoken, which is the order for him to go fetch. When the dog has been dropped the breaker should stand in position about eight or ten feet ahead of the dog and about three feet to his left. This gives the breaker a commanding position. The object thrown should fall about fifteen feet from the dog. Now let the breaker look steadily into the dog's eye and maintain a feeling as though he were saying sharply, "Drop! Drop!" The breaker may repeat this to himself, not audibly, nor must he move his lips. At the same time the breaker should emphasize his feelings so as to make the

accompanying expression more marked. He must catch the dog's eye and induce the dog to look squarely and intently into his face. In a few moments the breaker must relax the feeling of "drop" and say gently to himself, as is his custom when ordering the dog to retrieve, "Dash," giving as much emphasis as possible to the accompanying expression. Immediately he should use the word Dash, thus ordering the dog to retrieve.

The ultimate lesson will simply be the order, Dash, unspoken, the dog being expected to catch the expression that accompanies the speaking of the dog's name when ordering him to retrieve.

At first, and in fact for some time, it will be impossible for the dog to catch the unspoken order, so it will be necessary to give the unspoken order and accompany it quickly with the spoken order, so that the dog will catch the connection and come to understand the meaning of the expression.

It will appear to most people who have not given this subject much thought that it would be impossible for man or dog to detect such a mild expression in the face of anyone. But we are all, unconsciously sometimes, reading emotional expressions nearly every day of our lives. We can read the various moods of those with whom we are intimately associated, and yet we can hardly tell

how we do it. We may not have studied the subject of emotional expression, still we look at one of our intimate friends and decide at once that all is not going well with him at that time. Or we decide that he has had cause to be thankful. We know at a glance that one of our friends is angry or well pleased. If we are intimate enough in these associations so that we know the hopes and fears they entertain, know their ambitions and understand the many things in which they have immediate and especial interest, we can often make a shrewd guess from appearance what has gone well and what has gone ill with them. Coming down to a single matter about which we know of our intimate friend's interest, we can tell in most instances how it stands. When our friends return from the races it does not take long to learn that we can borrow a little money if we need it, or that they may want to borrow a little money for immediate use.

If we call our dog to us and give him a stern look before he reaches us he knows we are displeased with him; he will show it in his countenance, and he may drop his tail and make his knowledge of our feelings manifest in other ways, and this, although the dog may never have been schooled in emotional expression. At all times

when at home or in the field the bird dog is quick to understand the good or ill feelings of his handler.

In respect to the lesson in mind reading we are teaching our young dog we are requiring him to understand two simple expressions of feelings, and in the light of what dogs know generally of expressions of feelings, it should not appear to be such a difficult lesson after all. The dog is not going to fall into a knowledge of what is wanted at once, but if the breaker handles the matter well and is cautious he will notice after a few trials that the dog is showing commendable interest in his work. The breaker, of course, when looking the order to drop, after the dog is down, will look very intently and sternly at the dog. And then, while the dog is watching him closely for a change of expressed feeling, the breaker will go so far, if necessary, as to smile broadly, and even give a slight nod of approval. The dog when he gets a little idea of the lesson will jump up and rush for the object to be retrieved. He will enjoy the work and will watch the breaker's face with surprising interest to catch the change he wishes to see.

Eventually, as a result of close study and experience, the dog will be able to recognize the change in expression of feeling which would escape the notice of a person.

The breaker will find it necessary in the beginning not only to help the dog along by emphasizing his feelings and expressions, but he will have to overlook a great many failures on the dog's part. He must always have the dog's close attention and the dog must be kept in a good humor, otherwise it were better to omit the lesson. But as the dog makes progress the breaker should be less demonstrative, striving to get a response from the dog to the unspoken order with the slightest expression possible.

Carrying this lesson into actual field work, the breaker can try its effect on single bird work. Already it has been pointed out that the breaker should assume a peculiar, cautious manner when among single birds. Now that the dog has been drilled in expressions of feelings, he will pay more attention to the breaker's manner while hunting the scattered covey. The dog now has some real knowledge which he will be disposed to put into practice, and he will respond kindly to further coaching. The breaker can now try scolding his dog by looking at him fiercely when he needs correcting. It may be necessary at first to emphasize this lesson with the whip, but finally the dog will get a good understanding of what is meant when the breaker shall chastise him with his countenance and general manner.

To make this lesson effective the dog should first be stopped with the uplifted hand, then the breaker looking him squarely in the eyes should show his displeasure.

When he is done "scolding" the dog he should relax his feelings and take on a pleased feeling in such a manner that the dog may observe and understand it. The dog then should respond in kind and be allowed to go on, being ordered to do so by a slight wave of the hand.

Sometimes the breaker can call his dog in and give him a very effective "thrashing" in this way, or he may drop him at a distance and do the same thing. This has all the good effect of a whipping; in fact, without any of its evil consequences. It does not always work; sometimes it is necessary to add the lash, but it is generally so effective that it is always worth trying on a dog that is highly developed.

In ranging at close quarters for single birds, dogs which are taught to watch for slight signs, can be turned by a mere nod of the head. The dog is not to be taught to be on the constant watch for signals and thus neglect his important work of finding birds. He is to know how to handle a given piece of ground under certain conditions, and, when he feels the need of instructions he gets

his cue from the handler's actions, and all this is done without noise or severity likely to distract the dog.

Dogs which are regularly worked in a brace and are well handled, read each others minds as a man would read an open book, and they get into sympathy with each other on the instant when it is necessary to do so. This kind of work is seen to best advantage on a misty day, when the birds run a great deal and leave a hot trail behind them. The dog in the lead will point and draw, point and draw with differing degrees of intensity. The dog behind will follow him like clockwork, pointing and drawing in the same mood. Both may break away from the straight trail and search for the body scent. One will make a half-hearted point for an instant, the other will copy it in his back and break away again with the other dog. All the various feelings that one expresses in following the winding trail of the running covey will be copied to a nicety. Two such dogs know each other so well that when one stops to a cold scent he should not point, the other can tell his feelings and will not back him promptly. Instead, he will show a disposition not to back at all.

Since dogs can read each others thoughts so well it is only reasonable to give them credit for

being able to read the handler's thoughts, provided the handler always gives them the same physical expressions.

In brace work the dogs should not only interpret each others feelings, but they should know the meaning of the handler's expressions. To that end, if he is breaking a brace they should be schooled in this important lesson together. Each dog should be taught singly to go fetch at any unspoken order, as before directed. In addition, the name of each dog should be used, one for the other synonymously with the order drop; that is, when both dogs are dropped side by side, the breaker will say Dash. That means for Dash that he is to jump up quickly and go fetch. For his brace mate it has directly the opposite meaning. To him it is synonymous with "Drop." When Ned hears the word Dash he feels as though he had been commanded to drop, at least that is the way he should be taught to feel.

When the breaker says "Ned," that dog should jump up at once and go fetch. For Dash, the order Ned means that he shall lie still. To him it is the same as though he had been ordered to drop.

The teaching of this trick is comparatively simple. The dogs should be dropped within a

few feet of each other, almost side by side. Each should have a short check line attached to his collar. At the end of Ned's line there should be a spike. This is to be pushed into the turf when both dogs are dropped. The line should be slack.

It does not matter much whether the dog fastened with a line to the stake or a pin in the ground is strictly attentive or not. The attention of the dog which is to receive the order is what is chiefly desired at this time. The line will take care of the other dog for the present.

Now let the breaker take his place a little ahead of the dogs, and a little to their left. Let him catch Dash's eyes, throw out an object to be retrieved and then say "Dash." This is the order for Dash to go fetch. Ned will probably jump up when Dash does. The check cord will stop him. The breaker, having anticipated all this by pegging Ned down, is ready with his whip to use it on Ned the moment Dash has passed on in front of him for the object to be retrieved. Then the breaker should advance toward Ned, and raising one hand to bring him to a drop, he should repeat the order, "Dash, Dash," in low tone, giving Ned a cut with the whip as he gives each order. Ned is to understand he is to drop or remain down

when he hears the order "Dash." The whip and the raised hand will help him understand the order.

Meanwhile, Dash is not to be interfered with in any way, no matter how well or poorly he performs his part of the work. The essential point at this time is to keep Ned down when Dash is ordered to retrieve. Ned can get further instructions in this lesson by being drilled alone. That is, he must be taught to jump up quickly and go fetch at the order "Ned," and lie close when he hears the order "Dash." The breaker should try him frequently with both these orders, using the whip and uplifted hand with the order "Dash" until he thoroughly understands he must remain down when he hears the order alone. After he knows just what he is to do on hearing the order "Dash," he will be likely at times to be disobedient. Then the breaker may take him by the collar and drag him back to the place he left, and as he is being taken back he should hear the order he disobeyed and feel the whip. When he has been dropped he may be given two or three more light cuts and hear the order "Dash" with each.

Dash should of course be given the same lessons that his brace mate is given. When both are wellnigh perfect the lesson should be carried so far with

both at the same time that each dog will go promptly and fetch upon hearing his name, and will lie still on hearing the other dog's name.

Now it is necessary to get each dog working alone to understand the silent order to go fetch and know that the order given the other dog to retrieve is equivalent to ordering him to lie still. It is a fact that unconsciously, when we speak to one dog, we have a slightly different feeling from that which we have when we speak to the other. The expressions of these feelings differ so little in their manifestations that man or dog can scarcely read them. The breaker must study these feelings and emphasize them so that they will be readable. It may be necessary to add some sign, such as a broad smile for one and a slight nod of the head for the other. The ultimate purpose, of course, of this kind of training, is to get the dog to work without noisy orders; to get him to read in a general way the wishes of his handler. Being forced to study the more delicate shades of emotional expression will tend to make the plainer ones easier.

When these first lessons have been well learned the dogs may be taught in actual shooting to retrieve to order. One dog going for the bird while the other remains dropped. When this kind of

work is done promptly and cheerfully, it is a very pretty accomplishment. So far as its actual utility is concerned it does not amount to much. But then sportsmen go afield, not to secure a big bag of game at the least possible cost, but to enjoy the outing. To this the dogs contribute largely. The pleasure of shooting is increased or marred by the character of the work done by the dogs.

Apart from this, training that does not cow the dog helps him directly or indirectly; it develops his mind and keeps him in a good state of discipline.

CHAPTER XXVI

WORK ON PRAIRIE CHICKENS

IN the early part of the prairie chicken shooting season the prairie chicken is a splendid bird on which to break dogs, for it has fixed habits at that time and lies well to a dog. We used to count the opening of the season on August fifteenth, but the season opens later now. Still these birds may be hunted before the season opens legally. So far as the dog is concerned it is not necessary to shoot over his points. He can be taught to range and quarter, to point and drop to wing in early August without the aid of the gun.

During the first half of August the young brood is strong of wing but not so much disposed to rise wild as they are later in the season. They wander about in the prairie grass where they feed on grasshoppers and pick at the young vegetation, and then move on a wheat stubble where they can always find a substantial meal of grain.

In the early part of the season the young brood does not usually fly far when flushed, so they may

be marked down in the open prairie, where good single bird work may be had.

As a rule the young covey keeps close to the wheat stubble when not feeding. In the morning while it is yet cool they walk from the grass into the stubble field, and although they may be found at times on any part of the stubble, they spend most of their time along the edge of the field next to the grass. If it is a still, bright, warm, morning the covey will lie well to the dog's point. Often a few birds will rise and the rest will remain. In fact, there is usually at this early season several flights before a covey of fifteen birds will all take wing. This makes it possible to get good point work from a young dog, for if he is careless and flush a number of birds of the covey there will still be plenty of birds left for him to point.

A good point in favor of prairie chicken hunting for a green dog is that the level, open country gives a good opportunity to teach quartering. Usually there is a little air stirring on the prairie, and the dog can thus be worked against the wind. This will help him in turning out, besides he can feel the scent better on ground where there is a little breeze. Moreover, if the dog is hunted much in the grass, as he should be, the work will tend to keep his head up when ranging.

The dog which is being worked at quartering can be helped along in his work a great deal if the breaker will select narrow stubble fields and compel his dog to go from edge to edge. The dog will soon learn that the birds frequent the edges of the field more than they do the center and he will show a disposition to run along the edges of the field instead of crossing from side to side and hunting the field out thoroughly. But the breaker can bring him around with his whistle, and once the dog gets started across the field he will easily be forced to go all the way.

When the covey is flushed and marked down in the grass, the breaker should take his dog to heel and approach the birds with the wind in his face, and when he is near the place where he marked the birds down his dog should be cast off and forced to quarter up to the birds. If the birds lie well he can give his dog a great amount of experience on birds in this way. The dog can be kept going with his head up, as he should go, and learn to hunt the body scent and jump into his points at a good pace. He will flush a great many birds, but this will teach him caution and give him plenty of work at dropping to wing.

No matter how carefully a dog may be taught to quarter he will change his method of ranging

when he becomes bird wise. He will learn the habits of the prairie chickens and will use his knowledge when thrown upon his own resources. Instead of quartering out the stubble field regularly he will pick out the likely places, hunt them thoroughly and pay little attention to the center of the field. Still, he will retain that idea of coming around that has been drilled into him and will generally work out the good ground on either side of the handler. When it comes to working at close range on single birds he will handle better than the dog which has not been taught to quarter. In the open prairie, too, when making very wide casts he will not put in all of his time on one side of the handler, nor will he be disposed to hunt straight away. He will not cut up his ground in regular parallels, but will follow a plan of working much across his handler's front. In short, when finally given his head he will have a much more desirable range for having been taught to quarter, and will be handy in working on single birds.

The one great difficulty the breaker will have to contend with in breaking his young dog on chickens is chasing. When the birds rise lazily from the stubble, one, two or three at a time, and sail away in plain view of the dog, the temptation

to chase is hard to resist. If he remains stanch to the rise of the first bird, up jumps another, and still another, to tempt him. If the handler is not near to stop him he will be almost certain to follow the birds. Even if the handler is near he will find some trouble in stopping his dog unless he can cut in ahead of him. Once the dog chases he finds the sport so good he is likely to keep it up for a while. The breaker can manage him better on the marked birds, as with a good long check line on his dog he has a fair chance of getting hold of it before the dog starts to chase. Once he reaches the check line he can punish the dog by checking him severely and dragging him back to the spot where he should have dropped. A few cuts of the whip will help impress the dog with the fact that he must not chase. He can be helped along in this lesson by being allowed to back an old reliable dog. In such cases when the birds are flushed the dog should be checked severely and made to drop to wing. When the dog will point long enough for the breaker to get to him he can slip on the check cord and easily force him to drop to wing. By handling him well on point, as already directed, he can soon be made thoroughly stanch.

The breaker who works his dogs on prairie

chickens should not lose the opportunity to make the acquaintance of the bachelor bird, an old prairie chicken that has had no family cares during the season. He is a lonely bird and may be found strutting about in the grass all by himself. He is not hard to identify, for he will lead a young dog a merry chase before the dog points him. For the purpose of working a young dog he is valuable, for more than any other bird he may be the means of making the dog extra bird wise. He will tax the dog's wits to the limit, and the work the dog will be obliged to do to point this old fellow will be a schooling calculated to develop his mind, as well as his instincts.

It is all very easy for the young dog when he comes on this old fellow in light grass, the wind blowing squarely into the dog's nose. The bird will stop but a moment to the dog's point, then he will be off, up wind a little way and then squarely across, then straight down the wind. Until he turns across wind the dog has the bird fairly in his nose and he draws on him as he runs, full of confidence. But when he comes to the place where the bird turned he looks foolish. There appears to be nothing for him to do but road after the bird. The dog never can tell how near he is to the bird going across the wind, for the body scent is blown

away from him. When the trail leads squarely down the wind it is even worse. The dog may potter along step by step on the trail, but he could not smell the bird two feet ahead of him. The best that the dog may expect after all his hard roading is a flush.

Some handlers dodge these runners, and some dogs show a disposition to get out of sorts when they strike one of these birds. Handled properly, the dog will learn to manage them, and in doing so will pick up some useful tricks on bird hunting, and instead of having a dislike for the work will find it very enjoyable.

The wise dog which has been taught how to handle these birds will road him up wind so long as he can feel the body scent. When the bird stops he will point stanch. When the bird moves he will road after him. But the moment the bird runs out to one side and then goes across the wind, the wise dog will stop, throw up his head and in a moment evolves his plan of action. He will turn completely about and after galloping down wind some forty or fifty yards, will whirl and quarter up toward the locality in which he thinks the bird is either still on the run or has stopped. In this way, if the bird runs back down wind after having gone a short distance across wind the dog will get

his body scent in his nose as he quarters toward him. If the bird should continue on across wind the dog, coming upon the trail, will know the direction he traveled. If necessary, he will go back and make another cast off in the direction of the bird. All the time the dog tries to get below the bird and work up to the body scent in the wind. He keeps clear of the foot scent and does not attempt to road either across or down wind.

Almost any setter or pointer of good intelligence may be taught to handle an old bird of this kind with skill. All they need is a little coaching. If the breaker is thoroughly familiar with the habits of this bird he can readily tell from his dog's style when the bird has crossed the wind, and from his dog's action he can tell pretty well whether the bird has gone to the left or right. Once having determined the bird's course he should get his dog off the trail and after going down wind with him a short distance, set him to quartering up wind toward the bird. Once the dog has been successful in scoring a good point on the body scent in this way he will remember the lesson, and at the next opportunity will most likely put it in force without being coached by the handler. At all events, given the opportunities in the hands of a good handler, he will soon learn the trick of

getting to the leeward of birds running across or down winds.

Besides teaching the dog the value of hunting body scents and using the foot scent to help locate the birds, this kind of work is of great benefit to the dog in many ways. Briefly, it may be said that it develops the dog's mentality and tends to make him bird wise.

CHAPTER XXVII

TRUE AND FALSE POINTS

IF a dog is fairly intelligent he may be effectually cured of the habit of false pointing, no matter how badly the habit may be confirmed. Usually, and it may be said in most instances, false pointing is the result of a false method of breaking and handling.

Handlers whose dogs do more or less false pointing are generally ready with an excuse for their dog's conduct. They find quail roosts ahead of their points or rabbit forms. Or perhaps they are certain their dog had foot scent, else, they reason, he would not have stopped.

There are true points and false points. The true point is the stanch point or the body scent. All the other points, in spite of the excuses that may be made for them, are false points.

The ideal setter or pointer does not point a quail roost because he knows it is only a place where the birds have been. He may check up in a cautious way at the strong scent of a quail roost, but he

has no business remaining there on a stanch point.

Good dogs are expected to stop or draw on a hot foot scent, although the highest type of setter or pointer makes it a rule merely to check his pace when he strikes a foot scent. If the trail is fresh the dog may move up on it cautiously, stopping occasionally to feel the ground well ahead of him for the body scent of the birds. But he does not make stanch points from which it is necessary to order him on. The dog should know when he feels only the foot scent that he is to move up of his own accord until he can reach the body scent with his nose. Then and not until then should he point stanchly.

Dogs in most cases when they do not work in this way have been improperly handled. Their emotional expressions have not been rightly interpreted in the first place. The mere check the dog makes when he comes upon a hot trail of birds is not a true point. It is merely a check or an expression of caution. Left to his own judgment without any manner of interference from his handler, the dog in all probability would go on after a moment's hesitation and make a true point on the body scent. But being encouraged or forced to hold fast on the foot scent the check be-

comes a false point and soon the habit is formed of pointing hot foot scents when the birds are not far away, and this habit prevails to such an extent that stanch points will be made on foot scents left by birds that have taken wing. Colder scents will be pointed, so will roosts and rabbit forms. The dog has simply been taught to make points where he should not point, and these are false points pure and simple.

With the young dog just forming the habit of false pointing the breaker need have but little difficulty in correcting his fault. First, he must learn to read his point expressions. He will be able with such a dog to tell the difference between his points on foot scents, or in fact any of his false points, and his true points on birds. When he sees the dog hesitate on a scent, or draw on a foot scent he should go to him and with his whip drive him on. It matters very little if the dog is driven into the birds. This will happen occasionally, but it is not to be avoided. Such a dog has too much point and will not be injured by having some of it taken out of him.

If the dog will break his false point and go on by way of the foot scent he may be allowed to do so, but the handler must avoid going up to him or ahead of him to urge him on. He must do this

from behind. Dogs which hold their false points until the handler comes up get this habit fixed. They will make a false point but will break it and go on about their business as soon as the handler comes up to them. What the dog should do is to break the false point before the handler comes. They must do it of their own accord, and on that account the handler should be behind his dog when he urges him to leave a false point. As soon as the handler gets close enough to the dog to determine that his dog is false pointing, he should order him on sharply, and advance toward him cracking his whip and ordering the dog on.

In most cases, where the dog is pointing on a good trail it is well to get the dog off the trail entirely and force him to quarter at a good gallop toward the birds. The instant he feels the body scent in his nose he will stop. If it appears that the scent comes to the dog faintly he should be forced on until he comes close enough to get the full scent of the birds. Then he may be held for a short time on his point.

When this plan has been followed for a time the dog will break his false points as soon as he finds his handler is approaching him. His true points he will hold stanchly, provided of course, he has not been so severely dealt with as to induce blink-

ing. The breaker may know when the dog has a true point from his expression, and if he is disposed to show a little timidity the breaker can reassure him with kind words. The main thing is to get him to break his false points before the breaker comes up. As soon as he gets in the way of doing this he will find it easy to go on from a false point without regard for the breaker or his whereabouts. Dogs that once get set into a false point, after false pointing has become something of a habit, do not appear to be able to break away until their handler gets to their head. And sometimes they will not budge until the handler walks in ahead of them. The habit must be broken and the dog permitted then to have his head. Under no circumstance is he to be ordered to stop when roading or cautioned into going steady when making game. Better allow him to flush than have him do too much pointing of a character that induces false pointing.

Dogs which are over-cautious and given to pointing too freely can be rushed at their birds without much danger of flushing. Their natural caution will stop them the instant they catch the body scent, and going a steady pace they will not be so likely to be bothered with foot scents. Moreover, once they get the habit of marching boldly

up to their birds they will enjoy the work and show no disposition to make false points.

There is a fool dog sometimes met with which runs out at the top of his speed for a distance and then jumps into a beautiful phantom point. This dog does not need a roost, a warm trail or the body scent to bring him to a point. Something prompts him to point and he points.

All that is necessary to do with a dog of this kind is to get him acquainted with birds. If, after he has had an opportunity to know something of pointing scents he continues to make phantom points the whip is to be tried as a last resort. If he still persists it may be concluded that he has a weak mentality and is not worth further pains.

It may be set down as a general rule that any fairly intelligent setter or pointer will not care to false point after he has learned to point birds instead of the places where birds have been. The handler is usually responsible for the false pointing.

CHAPTER XXVIII

BLINKING

DOGS sometimes become frightened at the noisy rising of the first covey of birds they point, and turn tail and sneak away. After this experience they may hunt well for birds, but as soon as they find them they blink. That is they turn and go away from them without waiting for them to rise. Frequently young dogs are treated harshly after they have pointed birds in order to have them drop to wing. The birds are associated in the dog's mind with the harsh treatment and this occurs to him as soon as he points a covey of birds. At the thought of his past experience on birds he slinks away, perhaps after attempting to point. He gets the habit of doing this and soon becomes a confirmed blinker.

Dogs that have begun pointing well get frightened or severely punished in connection with the rise of birds and contract the habit of blinking. Other dogs, from sheer nervousness and excitement can scarcely contain themselves or point.

They move about, not with any intention of flushing the birds or leaving them, but just because they are in such a nervous condition they cannot remain still. Dogs of this kind badly treated for their original fault become blinkers.

Then again, old dogs which have had one or more full season's work get cunning and form the habit of pointing birds from one position for a short time and then from another. Sometimes they will point a covey of birds from three or four sides, and then whirl and go away for another covey. This kind of a dog does not have any fear of the birds and may never have been severely enough punished in connection with birds to induce his peculiar performance. In most instances this peculiarity comes to dogs which have done quite a little self hunting, or have been lost frequently on point. The dog would get tired of pointing, and would break away only to return and point from some other direction. Soon the habit would be formed and the dog would seem rather to enjoy his peculiar method of pointing birds from several directions. The habit once firmly fixed the dog would naturally fall into this manner of pointing as a regular thing. When he would be fresh he would hunt up several coveys and point and leave them. Then he might steady

down and hold his points long enough for his handler to come up and shoot over him.

While this performance comes under the head of blinking it differs materially in kind from the blinking which comes from fright. For each there must be different treatment.

Sometimes where the habit is not confirmed, the dog will point well under favorable circumstances and blink other times. If the breaker can get in such a position as to catch the dog's eye, he will be able to reassure the dog merely by standing still. If the dog is disposed to leave the point and go away the breaker should remain in place a few moments and then go to the dog. But he is not to speak to him any further than to order him on in another direction. After the dog has had a short gallop, the breaker should work him toward the birds he had left, but he should approach them from another direction. Most likely when the dog gets near the birds he will recall their exact location and remember the fact that he had left them. He may want to point them again but will hesitate. Possibly he will stop before he gets close enough to smell the birds. If he does the breaker should get to him as quickly and quietly as possible, approaching him from the front and side so that the dog may see his movements. Once he gets his

hands on him he can do a great deal to correct his fault. If the dog will remain quiet the breaker should stroke him, lift him gently by the tail, press steadily against his quarters as though to push him forward. If the dog has not really got the scent but is simply standing because of his knowledge of the location of the birds, the breaker may gently and slowly lead him forward a few paces. Finally, when the birds are flushed the dog should be kept as quiet as possible, the breaker being sure to stand between the dog and the birds. The dog will drop and hug the ground from fright, but no word is to be spoken to him. The breaker, after remaining perfectly quiet for a few moments, should advance a step or two toward the place from which the covey rose and sit down with his back to the dog. In a few moments the dog will get over his fright and will advance to the breaker. The breaker might lay his hand on him but he should not speak. The dog is to understand that so far as the breaker is concerned, nothing has happened that is worth making a fuss over.

On such occasions as this good breakers often make the mistake of trying to reassure a frightened dog by talking to him and generally making a great deal of fuss. This always has the very opposite effect from that which was intended.

After remaining on the ground for a few moments the breaker should get up and go on about his business just as though nothing had happened. The dog should be allowed to have his own way until well away from the location where the birds were flushed. A few lessons of this kind will give the dog confidence. Then when he points and blinks he may be taken back to the spot from which he blinked and be kept on point. The breaker will help him for a time by taking a position just in front of him. When the dog puts a little life in his point the breaker may walk away and then return to the dog, so as to accustom him to holding his point under different conditions.

Care must be taken about shooting over a dog that blinks, as the report of the gun together with the noisy flight of a covey of birds only seem to increase his fright. It is better not to shoot at all until the dog will hold fast to the point and drop to wing without going away.

The confirmed blinker should be treated in the same way as one which has only a mild attack of fright, except that it is well sometimes to accustom such dogs to the birds by having them back if they will. They can be handled and treated the same on a back as they can on point. Only they will be farther from the birds. Dogs that are bad

blinkers can be handled on point until they will allow the breaker to throw them into a covey of birds. All that is necessary is that the handler be patient, persistent and gentle.

Dogs that get the habit of pointing birds and leaving them without being frightened will race away, point another covey and leave that. A dog of this kind, when he leaves a covey, should be taken right back and worked up to the birds until he points them again, then the handler should go to him and after stroking him pull him about a little by the tail. The dog should be turned completely around so that he can point the birds over his shoulder. Then the breaker should turn him again and sit down where the dog can see him. It will do no harm for him to spend as much as ten minutes with the dog on that one point.

The next point the dog makes, whether on a single bird or covey, the same lesson should be repeated. After several points have been made the breaker should go away, after having laid his hands on the dog, and remain out of sight, returning in a few minutes, and then leaving again. The dog in this way gets the habit of holding his points. He will like to be handled while on point, and if the breaker will make a practice of doing this the

dog will be more likely to remain stanch once he points birds.

Usually dogs of this kind need the most attention on their first points; after they have settled to their work they are not so likely to blink.

CHAPTER XXIX

POTTERING

ONE of the very bad natural qualities of setters and pointers that may be helped or hindered by the breaker, is pottering. The high-headed, bold dog seldom shows a disposition to potter. He is all too eager to reach the birds themselves, and instead of wasting time pottering about on a false scent, this very scent increases his enthusiasm and urges him on toward the bird.

The cautious, timid dog, on the other hand, is disposed to check at the faintest scent, and when he moves on he falls to nosing the scent and pottering about to no good purpose. His very fear of flushing the birds induces him to do the very thing that will make him likely to flush, for the pottering dog, with his whole attention on the faint scents, will blunder into the covey. The pottering dog is concerned with the scent directly under his nose. The better scent—the body scent of a full covey, a few yards ahead of him, could easily be reached with his nose if he would but

raise his head and feel ahead, instead of concerning himself with the false scent at his feet.

Even when one of these pottering dogs get on a hot trail they pay so much attention to the scent under their nose that they fail to catch the hotter body scent of the covey until they are close enough to the birds to flush. They will road and potter right into the birds, whereas if they would but lift their heads they would easily find the better scent.

While dogs are sniffing hot-foot scents, nose down, and their attention on the ground directly in front of them, they get their nose so full of the hot-foot scent that the discriminating power of the nose is impaired. This tends to make a dog miss the fainter scents from the body when approaching the covey by the trail. This applies particularly to the young, inexperienced dogs. The more cunning dog will use the foot scent or trail as an aid in locating the covey. When he strikes a good trail, instead of pottering on it, and filling his nose with the foot scent, he raises his head and reaches as far ahead as possible in order to catch the faintest scent from the body. Then he draws toward it without any regard for the foot scent.

Inasmuch as dogs of certain conformation and

temperament have the habit of pottering, and since dogs of different conformation and temperament do not acquire this bad habit, pottering may be said to be a natural quality. However, there are dogs which, from improper handling, have this habit as an acquirement. In this sense it is artificial.

The dog, which by nature is low-headed, and by temperament disposed to dwell and potter on false scents, should be handled in such a way as to discourage the fault. Above all things, he should not be so handled as to encourage it until it becomes a fixed habit.

The breaker can soon determine whether or not his dog has a disposition to dwell on scents and potter. Once he is satisfied the dog has the fault, naturally he should see to it that he has little or no chance to develop it.

What must be done with a dog of this kind is to drive him bang up to his birds with the crack of the whip, at the risk of a flush. When the dog puts his head down, or shows unmistakable signs that he is near birds, he should be pulled off the scent as quickly as possible and forced to go at a gallop, quartering the ground up wind, if possible. Every time he shows a disposition to drop his head, or to stop and potter, the breaker should be

ready with his whip to urge him on. He will no doubt blunder into the covey. But every time he does that he will learn a lesson. He will eventually expect to find a covey when taken from a foot scent, and he will get the idea of looking ahead of him for the birds, rather than directly under his nose.

Almost any setter or pointer with a fair nose can go at a gallop and point a covey of quail lying ten yards ahead of them. It is all largely a matter of the dog having his nose and his mind on the ground that far ahead of him. As a rule, the dog can get within five yards of a covey without flushing, and no dog fit to shoot over would fail to reach a covey of birds that distance if he was hunting in front of him. With his mind on something else the dog is likely to run into the birds before he gets the scent.

It is obvious, therefore, that time spent in teaching the dog to hunt the proper ground ahead of him at a gallop is well spent. It is indeed one of the most important lessons in dog breaking. When the dog has learned it well, he gets confidence in himself, and always feels there is little danger of missing birds or running into them if he will but hunt ahead rather than look for scents almost under his nose.

There are many dogs with powerful and discriminating noses which blunder on to birds largely because they have never been properly schooled in looking ahead. On the other hand, there are dogs with weak noses, which are always feeling their way, expecting to find birds well ahead. Such dogs make few brilliant finds, but they score few flushes.

CHAPTER XXX

BREAKING THE BOLTER

WHAT has come to be known as the bolter among developed setters and pointers is a product of our present field trial system. Until the early eighties we never heard of such a thing at field trials or in private shooting as a bolting dog; one that would deliberately run off the course, and, without regard for his handler, go off on a self-hunting expedition. As the demand for pace and range grew with field trials, handlers found new ways and means by which their dogs could be pushed out and kept out. The earlier method of teaching dogs to hunt to the gun was abandoned, and dogs, which were disposed by nature to keep the handler always in view, were discouraged from continuing that kind of work. An independent way of working out the country was required instead, and to cultivate and develop this independent style has been an important part of the modern breaker's methods. It mattered little that a dog might be lacking in speed. It

was the handler's duty to make him appear fast, and this he would do by pushing him out, and keeping him out. With a good horse, the handler of to-day practically says to his dog:

"Just go out and hunt in your own way. Don't waste any time looking for me. I'll take care of myself and keep track of you. What I desire is that you keep your mind on the business of finding birds. Don't let me disturb you."

This makes for a desirable independence. It encourages the dog to choose his ground without regard for the course over which the handler travels. It tends to give him a wide range, and instead of a feeling to return occasionally to the handler, or to make a cast and keep the handler in view, he gets the feeling of going the other way. He feels that he will not loose the handler, no matter which direction he chooses to go. Experience has taught him the handler will not be far away when he finds birds.

The handler, always following his dog closely on horseback, is likely to be near the dog when he points, and in most instances will have little difficulty in finding him.

As may be supposed, this method of giving a dog independence and range, along with the desire to "stay out," is very hard work. The

handler is on a constant strain, and at times must ride hard over a rather rough country to keep in touch with his dog.

During the dog's early education this method serves a good purpose, particularly if the dog is of gentle disposition. But there comes a time when the evil effects of this method are likely to assert themselves. If the dog is by nature bold, high couraged and enduring, with a good turn of speed, he will occasionally, when first cast off, get beyond the reach of his handler. He will do just what he has been taught to do, viz., go away at top speed and range to suit himself in search of a covey of birds. About his handler, who may be following on horseback at a stiff gallop, he will have no concern. According to his idea, all the country before him is his to race over, and as may be supposed, it is not likely to take him long to gallop out of the country before he finds birds. And he will feel that he is doing just what he should do, and in having such a feeling, he is justified, for he is doing just what he has been encouraged to do from puppyhood. In his younger days he lacked strength and bird sense and boldness to carry him away so far from his handler. But in his mature state he has a knowledge of bird country, has an enthusiasm for his work, has speed

to carry him far away, and goes from the leash with the single idea of finding a covey of birds. Once he passes through a little thicket or a piece of woods, it does not take him long to get out of sight. If the handler could know which of several likely looking directions the dog took, it would be a comparatively simple matter for him to ride on and overtake him, for sooner or later birds would stop the dog. But once out of sight, one of these bolting dogs are difficult to follow, for they do not keep a general straight course. With really good judgment they turn in that direction which appears to them the most suitable way to birds.

It often happens, therefore, that a confirmed bolter will be out of hand and sight in a few minutes after he has been cast off. And he may keep up his racing and searching for birds until he has been brought to a stop by a good find a half mile or more from his handler. When he gets tired of pointing, or the birds refuse longer to lie to his point and take wing, the dog may then desire to find his handler. But he will have little or no idea of the handler's location, and then he will be put to the necessity of getting out of his dilemma as best he may. Perhaps handler and dog will meet again on the same day. Possibly it will be a week before they see each other.

And so it will go on. The dog will never be a safe field trial or shooting dog.

Of course, the danger of losing such a dog is greatest when he is first cast off, particularly if he is in good racing condition. If he can be kept on the course for the first ten minutes after he has been cast off, he will most likely steady down and keep within such a distance that he may be found by his handler.

Dogs of this kind are often worked hard before they are put down in a field trial competition, in order to take some of the racing life out of them, so that they will be likely to stay on the course. The hard work has the desired effect so far as keeping the dog on the course is concerned. But he might as well have been left in the kennel. Dogs in such a tired state are always poor performers. They have little heart in their work, and hunt in a slovenly manner. The "class," both as to speed and range, as well as bird work, has all been taken out of them.

Occasionally one of these bolting dogs win in brilliant fashion at field trials. They have the good fortune to be "stopped" by birds soon after being cast off, and in the course of time the wire edge is worn off and the disposition to run away is lost. At best, however, such dogs are unreli-

able, either for field trials or private shooting, and when they once acquire the bolting habit it is well to break them of it in such a way that they will be safe, even when in the best of racing condition. Still it should be said that a dog which once becomes an habitual bolter will never be thoroughly reliable. The best that any breaker may hope to do with such a dog is to help him and reduce the chances of his bolting the course to the minimum. This is well worth doing, for the bolters are among the very best of the field trial dogs.

The first thing to do in order to correct the fault of a bolter is to hunt him day after day over the same course, or two courses may be selected. By hunting the dog regularly over such a course the dog soon becomes acquainted with the character of the country, and the direction the handler is likely to take in covering the course. The dog soon learns every likely piece of cover on the course, and is able to go from one likely place to another without having to consider the matter. In the course of a few days he will go over such a course with a pretty fair knowledge of the location of birds on the course, and in the course of time he may be depended upon to go rather mechanically from covey to covey during his work on the course.

If the handler is particular to travel over the same route, day after day, the dog will get the habit of working in sight of his handler, and will know just about where to bring him in view from every part of the course.

The mere fact of the dog seeing the handler occasionally, and the further fact of his hunting out a course in a particular way every day, has a good influence on the dog. Besides, the handler can direct him from day to day and fix the habit in the dog of working out the course according to the handler's idea of how it should be worked. All this touches the spirit of independence the dog acquired as a result of his early training, and gives him something of a desire to bring the handler in view occasionally.

This much means a little progress, but it is not enough. Something further must be done, and at the risk of making the dog a blinker, he should be taught to back away from a point and return to the handler.

This is one of the tricks of dog breaking that is not to be undertaken by a novice, for it involves risks which only a handler of long experience can anticipate and prevent. With a reasonable degree of caution and care, lest the thing be overdone, the dog may be taught this trick with safety.

Right here it should be stated that the efficacy of this trick lies chiefly in the fact that a dog once having acquired it, rather delights in the performance. He soon learns to enjoy backing away from a covey of birds, running to his handler and leading him back to the point. And a thorough appreciation of this fact is the chief thing in its application. The handler who has never tried this plan must take something on faith. He will be surprised and rewarded by having his dog enter into the work with peculiar enjoyment.

To teach a dog to leave his point and return to it is a very simple matter. It requires a little judgment and a big stock of patience. Always it must be done with the view of making the dog perform intelligently. He must know when to break his point and when to remain stanch. To effect this depends upon the genius of the handler.

As a beginning, the dog should be found on a good covey point, made some distance from the handler. When found, the handler should sit down some little distance from the dog and allow him to remain stanch on point several minutes. Then he should go quietly to the dog, put him on a lead, and, without talking to the dog, lead him quietly back on the course over which the handler had come.

After remaining in a particular spot with the dog for a few minutes, he should be permitted to race back to the birds he had left, the handler following him. Most likely the dog will return to the point he had left. If he is disposed to break away in some other direction, the handler should work him toward the birds with a view to getting him to resume his point. Once on the point, he should be encouraged to remain. The handler should stroke him while on the point, and finally step back and remain near the dog, preferably at some point in full view of the dog.

This will give him the notion of remaining stanch on his point while the handler is near. Taking him away will tend to give him the idea of leaving his point to look up his handler.

Let not the handler get an idea that the dog is going to grasp the meaning of all this after a few trials. It will take many repeated efforts on the part of the trainer to get the dog to voluntarily leave his point.

After many attempts the handler should seat himself conveniently near his pointing dog and remain quiet for a full half hour, if necessary. He might in the first instance go near the dog and call him, not for the purpose of having him answer the call, but to let the dog know he was near, so

that should the dog back away from his point a few minutes later he would be more easily found.

The handler will find in the course of time that the one thing which appears to please the dog more than all else in connection with this trick, is the going back to the birds. The dog will run ahead of the handler, look back over his shoulder occasionally, and draw on toward the birds. All the while the dog is returning to his point he will have the point feeling, and he will show it in an unmistakable way. In this way the handler may know later when his dog has left birds, to which he is about to return.

When dogs acquire this habit, they will come back a long way from a point and lead the handler to the birds.

The bolter is lost usually, because he is on birds. If he gets the habit of backing away from his birds, and looking up his handler, he will be broken of the worst half of his bolting fault.

Gladstone was a very fast, wide-ranging dog, but in no sense was he a bolter. In his way, he worked to the gun, and even when taking his widest cast, had a good sense of the location of his handler, and unless he found birds on such a cast, would come around on the course so as to bring his handler in view. When he found birds on one

of his wide casts, he would hold them a reasonable length of time, then break away, find his handler, and lead him back to the birds. I taught him this trick, not to cure him of bolting, for he never had the bolting habit, but to cure him of a worse habit he had of leaving a covey of birds after he had found and pointed it. He had this habit so bad at one time that he would find and leave four or five coveys when first put down. He would find his birds, hold them for a minute, and then break away on a fast gallop for another covey, and it was impossible to get near him until he had raced off his wire edge. He was easily taught the trick of backing away from his point, and returning to his handler, instead of racing away for a new covey. When he had the habit well fixed, he would always hunt his handler after being lost on a point. I found it a very convenient accomplishment in such a high class dog, for when lost in the cover on point it was not necessary to waste time hunting him. All that was necessary was to remain in the open, on the course, and the dog would be sure to come out in plain view, and lead back to the birds he had left.

As noted elsewhere, dogs are very fond of much attention while on point. The bolter should be made much of on point. He should be taught to

like this kind of attention. If he gets it after leaving and returning to his point, he can be made so stanch that he will never leave his point while the handler is near.

Perhaps it is well to say at this time that there is little or no excuse for a handler turning out a bolter. Dogs can be taught to range fast and wide, and yet have a good idea of the course they should keep.

CHAPTER XXXI

DEVELOPING SPEED

IT is a mistake to suppose that a high rate of speed is developed by merely giving the dog his head or forcing him out at wide ranging. In many cases this plan is effective, but it is not always so, for certain dogs will go wide, but when they get far enough away from their handler they will hunt at a pottering gait. Dogs that are naturally fast need little more than an opportunity to extend themselves. The well-made dog which could go fast if he would is sometimes not disposed to race, and he will naturally get into the habit of going along at a steady jog when he should extend himself unless special pains is taken to develop his speed.

Let it be understood at the outset that range and speed are different things; that a wide range does not necessarily mean a fast pace. A dog may run more miles in hunting out a five hundred yard course than another would go in hunting out a course of one thousand yards wide. The setter

or pointer does not live which may not be run down on a course one hundred yards wide. Pace depends upon the actual speed at which the dog travels. The width of his range is another matter. It is necessary to develop range, but it is also often necessary to develop speed apart from range.

Where it is desired to increase a dog's speed it is of first importance that the dog shall be well conditioned. The dog which is low in flesh will not put his heart in the work to be undertaken. He may go well for a short time but he will let up and then he will do a lot of pottering. Dogs which have been taught to quarter can best have their speed developed on a narrow range, for there they are always under the control of their handler, who can keep them going at top speed all the time they are down. When such a method is followed the handler should be ready with his whip, to crack it and urge the dog on as he passes him. If the dog is well in hand he will strain himself each time he passes the handler and go as fast as he possibly can.

Fifteen minutes of this work, at a time, is sufficient. When the dog has had a burst for that length of time he should be taken up for a rest, and then given another ten- or fifteen-minute run. If he has about three such runs in the morn-

ing and the same amount of work in the afternoon he will have had all he can stand. Short runs while the dog is full of life and anxious to race should be the rule. When he shows signs of tiring he should be laid up for a few days' rest.

Where the dog does not quarter and will not take this kind of work he should be hunted short spurts in an open country, the handler going horseback. The handler need have no concern about range; what he should do is to try to keep the dog fully extended.

As the dog gets to about the limit of his range, the handler should whistle him around and then start away up field and a little cross field at a good pace. The dog will go his best to get out in front of the handler and across to the other side of the course. When he does this he will be likely to slow down and hunt at his natural pace. But the handler anticipating him is away off in front again on the other side of the course. When he blows his whistle the dog will come over to his side at his best pace.

The dog does not get much chance to do any hunting, as he is kept pretty busy galloping to get into his place. However, he is all the time acquiring the galloping, steady-going habit, and the more he gets of this kind of work the more natural

will it be for him to go over the course at the top of his speed. He will find, too, after a little experience that he can hunt birds and point them at this pace.

But the dog must not be allowed to get tired and slacken his pace. He must be on an edge when started, and must be taken up after a short run, to be put down again after he has been rested.

There is one kind of setter or pointer that is often slow during his first season's work, but comes out fast the next season. This is one of those dogs which have a rare combination of boldness and docility. Such a dog may have plenty of speed, but his caution and gentleness prevent him from using it regularly. Sometimes his boldness will assert itself and he will hunt at his best pace, but when he gets the least bit tired or finds birds plentiful he puts up his speed and hunts at an over-cautious pace. As he becomes better acquainted with bird work he learns he can hunt fast and find birds. A dog of this kind can always be pushed to his best pace by keeping him going until birds are found, then he should be taken up, rested for a time and then pushed out again to find another covey.

All dogs which are having their speed developed should be kept at covey work, and not allowed to

do any work on scattered birds. As soon as the covey is flushed the dog should be taken away to a new locality, and after a little rest be sent out to find another covey.

Speed is developed better on good scenting days than on days when the scenting is poor. Dogs soon learn they do not need to exercise as much care on good scenting days and are therefore not so timid about extending themselves. They find that when forced to go fast by the tactics of the handler that they are able to get points on covies, and that tends to make them bolder.

The early morning hours, or the late afternoon are the best periods of the day to develop speed, because it is usually cooler at those times, and birds are more easily found. The only drawback to working when birds are on the move is that the dog may be checked occasionally by foot scents. This will not bother a good handler much, for he will manage to keep him galloping until he gets a scent strong enough to point.

The dog which has been forced into a fast pace while quartering will be disposed to slack up when turned down in a game country. If he does the handler will be obliged to ride the course so as to keep him going until he gets over the desire to hunt at a slow pace.

Those dogs which have an action that does not permit them to go easily at a very fast pace may be able to go a long time at a moderate pace. They have their best pace and this may be brought out by working them short spurts and forcing them to go the best pace they can. A dog of this kind can be given a pace at which he will go steadily for a long time. That is all that can be required of him. If he goes a fair pace and keeps going without stopping to dwell on scents he will acquire a very killing pace.

The dogs which the handler should have the most concern with respect to their pace are those which can go fast but do not wish to do so; dogs which have plenty of speed in their heels and have very little in their heads. A dog of this kind must have his speed developed by the method already described, of giving him short spurts when his enthusiasm is high, and keeping him going by following on horseback. If a horse cannot be used the handler should push on over the course at his best pace, never permitting the dog to dwell on scents or hunt out little thickets in his own leisurely way. He must be kept on good going ground suited to a fast pace, and be urged on at the top of his speed.

CHAPTER XXXII

BREAKING FOR COVER WORK

FOR the most part the instructions already given for developing and breaking the setter and pointer have been directed to the quail or prairie chicken dog. Work on the prairie or in the large fields of the South and West where quail are plentiful requires a dog of great enthusiasm. One that will range wide in search for coveys and go a more moderate pace on close work for single birds.

But there is a very large part of this country where speed is an absolute bar to a dog's usefulness. Bird dog work in New England and many of the middle and northern states is of an entirely different character. The greater part of the hunting and shooting is done in cover and for such work a dog is required that will not go fast if he can. Should he have the pace and the racing desire he must be so broken that he will change his natural method to the artificial method the breaker has for his ideal.

The New England or cover dog need not be one that is so formed as not to be able to go fast. On the contrary he should be a well formed dog strong and of easy action. But he should have that peculiar temperament which lends itself easily to a steady, moderate pace rather than an enthusiastic racing gallop. The racing dog cannot find and point woodcock and ruffed grouse in the New England swamps, thickets and woods, nor could the racing dog keep his handler in view long in such a rough country.

Some of our best bred setters and pointers have become such thoroughly fast dogs by nature that it is very difficult to bring them down to the steady pace required for cover shooting. Not that they are high-couraged, headstrong dogs, but rather that they have the racing instinct and enthusiasm so firmly fixed by long continued breeding to the field trial standard of excellence, that they chafe under the restraint of a continual range of less than one hundred yards. They cannot extend themselves on the narrow course as their feelings prompt them.

It is not wise, therefore, to attempt to make a good cover dog of one of the small, nervous, high-strung kind of dogs that do so well on quail. It is better to select a dog of good substance and gentle

disposition. The higher he carries his head the better. Such a dog may have the ability to go a good pace and keep it up, but with a docile temperament he will more readily adjust himself to conditions that require a steady, moderate pace, to be kept up for a long time, instead of going at the racing gait for a short period.

The dog that is to be broken for cover shooting should be thoroughly yard broken and taught to quarter in small fields. It does not matter if he goes fast while being taught to quarter. In fact he cannot acquire this accomplishment well at a moderate pace. When raced through the fields he will be inclined to keep his head up, and that is essential in a cover dog. When he is introduced to real cover work he can be brought down to a moderate, steady pace.

After the dog is well in hand so far as his yard breaking and preliminary work in quartering is concerned, he should be taught to point quail. Then he should be worked in an open piece of woods for ruffed grouse. It does not matter much that birds may not be found as easily in the woods selected as they might be in the thicker cover, but in an open woods the dog can be made to quarter. He should be kept going for at least two hours in the morning and the same length of time in the

afternoon. He may tire and put his head down. If he does he should be taken up for a short rest. If he keeps going at a steady pace he should be kept at it. These long work-outs will tire him and steady him down to a pace that he can hold a half day at a time, and when he gets that measure of himself he will use that pace naturally whether he is tired or not.

When the dog will quarter kindly through the woods at a steady pace, covering the ground for about twenty-five or thirty yards each side of his handler, he should be made to work out the ground on one side, going away from the handler about thirty yards, coming around and working up to within a few feet of his handler, then turning and going back again.

It frequently happens that in ruffed grouse shooting that good cover for birds will lie at, say, the right of a cart path. The handler does not wish to go into the cover, so he walks along the path and has his dog hunt out the ground to his right. Or the ground to be hunted may lie to the left of the handler, and his dog is not properly broken until he can be sent in to work out that ground, turning back each time he comes out to his handler. The dog must, therefore, be taught to quarter to the left as well as to the right.

When the dog gets a little bit bird wise he will recognize likely looking places for ruffed grouse and will skip much ground instead of quartering it out fairly. This is not only to be expected, but desired. When the dog gets sense enough to pick out the good ground in a course one hundred yards wide, he is expected to do it, but his strict lessons in quartering will serve to keep him on the course instead of leading away from one likely looking place to another regardless of direction. And then again, when the dog gets a little wisdom and begins to think he knows it all, the handler can bring him back to his way of thinking at any time by forcing him to quarter closely.

In a ruffed grouse or woodcock country dogs need a great deal of directing, even when they are bird wise. And they should obey promptly. This they will be likely to do when they have been thoroughly schooled.

Sometimes the handler will want to walk along the edge of a thick swamp where there are likely to be ruffed grouse. He must send his dog in by a wave of the hand or a very low spoken order. The dog knows how to work out that swamp. He does not go in very far before he turns and works back to his handler. When he brings him in view he works back into the swamp. The handler

may not have his dog in sight half the time, but he knows at all times just about where he should be, and when he does not turn up at the proper time the handler can quickly find him on point.

In New England and other countries of similar character there are many little alder swamps and draws, that lead away from a large swamp or woods. Into these narrow runs the ruffed grouse frequently wander. They like to run out of the heavy timber or large swamps into these narrow low places to feed. As the cover is usually good they feel quite secure. The handler cannot well shoot if he goes into the alders himself, so he sends his dog in. While the dog is slowly beating out the cover the shooter walks on the high ground adjoining and gets a good shot as the bird tops the alders.

The dog must know how to work out cover of this character. He cannot well be trained in such places, but he gets the knowledge of handling such ground after he has been well handled in level woods or cover not so heavy. A little practice in the alders makes the work easy for him.

Sometimes ruffed grouse will leave the larger woods and swamps for little thickets, where feed is plentiful and to their liking. The cover dog must be so broken that he can be sent into one of

these little thickets to hunt it out while the handler stands on the outside in a convenient place for a shot as the bird comes out and makes for the larger swamps or woods.

To make a good ruffed grouse dog the highest type of setter or pointer intelligence is required and this must be made good use of by the breaker in imparting the necessary knowledge. It requires a higher degree of intelligence in the dog and a higher degree of breaking for ruffed grouse than for any other of our game birds. The dog which can find and successfully point ruffed grouse so as to give his handler a shot is the highest type of setter or pointer. The ruffed grouse is a very wary bird; it takes a steady going, high-headed, intelligent dog to point him.

For woodcock the dog should be broken the same as for ruffed grouse. The essential thing in the woodcock dog is that he range close and keep going at a slow but steady pace.

The one great mistake some breakers make in their effort to turn out a finished ruffed grouse dog, is that they do all their breaking on ruffed grouse. This would be very well, but for one thing, and that is the dog does not get opportunities enough to point. It is, therefore, better to give the ruffed grouse dog some preliminary work

on quail. He need not be given a wide range, nor need he have his speed highly developed. He can be hunted long stretches at a time so as to acquire a slower pace than he would get if given the short, sharp spurts necessary to the making of a finished quail dog.

The work he would get on quail would quicken his pointing instinct and develop his nose, since he would have plenty of opportunities to point and work on birds. With this much learned in the quail field, he would be better qualified for work on ruffed grouse.

CHAPTER XXXIII

BREAKING FOR BRACE WORK

ALL well broken setters and pointers are expected to behave well in company. Unless they have some special schooling for the work they are likely to do many things they should not do, and refuse to do things they should do.

No matter how well a dog may work alone, as soon as he is put down with another dog he may develop a little jealousy which unfits him for working in company. Or he may take on some other form of meanness when working in a brace which will mar the work of both dogs.

What appears to most young breakers to be the logical method of introducing a dog to brace work is to take the young dog afield with an old, steady dog accustomed to working kindly in company. This is the very worst way possible to begin brace work with a young dog, for he will soon come to realize his inferiority to the older dog and will lose confidence in himself, being content to follow the

old dog about or watch him work. In a little while he will be satisfied with merely backing.

What each dog in a brace must do first of all is to hunt independently, and to induce independent work in the young dog he must be put down in the beginning of his brace work with a dog which is not continually beating him to birds; a dog which he does not look to and lean upon.

It is well enough to give a young dog a little work with a reliable old dog in order to get him to backing well, for a dog likes to have confidence in the dog he backs, but this work must not be carried so far as to take away the young dog's confidence in himself.

The wise breaker will choose as a brace mate for his young dog, one that the young dog can outpace and outpoint. A dog that is not so bird wise as to beat him continually at the game of finding birds. The young dog finding his brace mate is no better, or possibly not so good as himself, will rely upon his own resources and hunt independently.

After the young dog gets the idea of relying upon himself when working in company he may be worked with older and more experienced dogs, but care should be taken for a while that the older dog is reliable and not given to false pointing.

The young dog will back a false pointing dog for a time, but if regularly hunted with dogs of that character he will soon learn to know their false points and either back them indifferently or not back at all. This will become a habit and cling to him, possibly all his life. If the habit of backing good points becomes well fixed, later in life he will not be so particular about working with a false pointing dog.

The effect of working young dogs with dogs which false point is often noticeable at public field trials where we naturally look for good expressions of breaking. Gladstone, one of the greatest of setters which ever ran in a public trial, was worked in his early days with all kinds of dogs, and being of a highly nervous temperament got the habit of despising the false pointing or non-backing dog. He would work kindly with any dog so long as that dog showed good manners, but once he refused to back promptly or got to false pointing, Gladstone's jealousy was aroused and he would no longer work well with such a dog. As for himself he would back one hundred straight points to the last degree of perfection. He would stand kindly with a dog back of him. He would never make a false point for the other dog to back. He was thoroughly honest in all his emotional expressions

From an Old Engraving.

Partridge Shooting in England, 1830.

and these were of the most emphatic character, so that no dog could have a good excuse for not interpreting his feelings. He demanded the same honesty of the other dog, and when he did not get it his confidence in the dog was lost, he became irritable and would shy away from the dog when he came near him. On this account he was a difficult dog to manage in a field trial. No dog of his day could beat him fairly, but the ill-mannered dog could put him in such a mood that an ordinary dog might beat him.

One of our most reliable field trial dogs was Gath. There was but one dog of his day which could beat him occasionally, and that was Sue. When Gath was young he was worked a great deal with Sue as a brace mate. Sue at the time was very cunning, and had been worked a great deal on birds. Gath got to looking up to her in his younger days and never got over it. He could beat dogs several classes above Sue, for with them he was thoroughly independent, no matter how good they might be. But once he was put down with Sue he lost confidence in himself and would watch Sue beat him to the birds.

Two young dogs, each of which will work well alone, may be worked together on birds. But should either of them show a disposition to acquire

the fault already pointed out, they should be separated until the fault has disappeared and instead, were showing thoroughly independent work. The cure for these faults, once contracted, is merely to hunt the dog with one he can beat, and one which does not false point.

With these faults out of the consideration there is some special training necessary for high-class brace work.

The dog having been taught to quarter alone must be taught to quarter with his brace mate. The proper way is for one dog to start off to the right, the other to the left. Each is to go to the fence and then turn out, cross the field to the fence on the other side. By this method each dog is quartering independently, and when the work is perfectly done one will reach the fence at the handler's right at the same time the other dog reaches the fence at the left. They will meet and pass each other in the center of the field. This is the preliminary work in quartering. In actual hunting they will not quarter, but they will be disposed because of their quartering lessons to work apart, independently of each other, and not follow each other about the field.

In brace work, as before pointed out, each dog is taught to respond promptly when he hears his

own name, and is to pay no attention to the other dog's name when he hears it spoken. In the retrieving and marking lessons this will be impressed upon the dogs.

Each dog should be taught to obey a particular whistle just as he is taught to respond to his name. And in the same manner he is to be taught to pay no attention to the whistle meant for his brace mate.

A good plan is to use one blast of the whistle for one dog and two blasts for the other. The dogs soon learn this and respond just as they do when their names are spoken. But it takes a great deal of drilling to make them thoroughly understand and respond promptly.

On single birds the brace can be taught to do beautiful work, as if they are well-nigh perfect in their quartering lessons they can be brought down to quarter their ground out well and back, drop to shot and retrieve to order.

Two dogs that are well matched in pace and temperament will learn the emotional expressions of each other so accurately that when on game they will interpret each other's feelings to a shade.

The ethics as between the dogs provides that when one points the other is to back instantly and remain stanch as long as the pointing dog is still.

When the dog in front makes a mere stop or point of caution before the birds have been located, the dog behind will understand the nature of the point and will honor it in kind, holding himself ready to break away and join in the search the moment the pointing dog breaks. So keen is the judgment of some dogs as to the character of a doubtful point that they will anticipate the dog on point and break away so quickly following his break that they appear to break at the same instant.

No dog need hold his back a moment after the pointing dog breaks away, nor is he expected to hold back and give the dog which pointed a chance to locate. He may go where he choose and make the most of the knowledge the pointing dog has imparted. If he can do so he may beat the other dog to the birds. The dog in front has the best chance and if he does not improve it the fault is his own. However, the dog behind must not "draw" past the pointing dog. If the pointing dog breaks away from his point and then an instant later begins "drawing," the dog behind must draw. When the dog in front checks, the dog behind must check and draw again, only when the dog in front begins to draw. When a stanch point on the body scent is finally made by the dog in front the dog behind

must come to a stiff point, remaining so until the birds are flushed, when both drop to wing or to shot. The breaker speaks one dog's name, and that dog, having already marked the dead bird, retrieves, while his brace mate and handler keep their places.

There is not much in the way of absolute instruction to be given the dogs to insure perfect brace work on birds. It is more a matter of giving the dogs an opportunity to develop. This means that the breaker is to do little in the way of interfering with the dogs while they are developing. The breaker may gently assist them by his manner and by the positions he may get into, rather than by such directions as are calculated to take the dogs' minds from their work.

CHAPTER XXXIV

BREAKING THE FIELD TRIAL DOG

SPEED, range, more speed, more range to the verge of bolting, and the ability to find and point coveys are the essential qualities of the field trial dog. It may be added that fairly good manners are required. Of course the dog must back and be steady to wing or shot. But there are no points for retrieving or extra good manners. Some single work is required, but real single bird work, such as the average sportsman demands of his dog in everyday shooting, is seldom seen at field trials. Speed, range and the covey are the things which most concern the field trial handler while breaking his dog. If the dog is inclined to bolt the course and go off on a self-hunting mission, the handler hopes to prevent him from doing so. Being on horseback and being permitted occasionally to go after his dog at a good pace he expects to keep him in sight until he is stopped by a covey of birds.

Field trial handlers can hardly be blamed for not paying more attention than they do to those finer points in breaking that tend to make a more finished dog. They do not get sufficient premium in the trial for breaking to pay for the trouble it costs, and then there is the danger of taking some "class" out of their dogs by overbreaking them. Moreover, from a purely commercial standpoint it is not profitable to turn out highly educated dogs, because at the price they receive for breaking they could not handle enough dogs in a season to make wages. So the breaker, as a rule, puts in his time developing class, giving the dog just enough good manners to make him passable.

Field trial handlers usually decry good breaking chiefly because if better breaking were demanded by field trial judges it would mean a great deal of extra work for which there would be no adequate remuneration. There is much force in the contention.

Still we occasionally see an extra well broken dog at field trials whose handler gets his reward from the judges, for no matter how the rules may read, our best judges are favorably impressed by a dog which has those good manners that come from good breaking. In fact, there are few of the high class field trial performers which would not

make a still better impression if they were better broken. If they lost a little of their class as expressed in speed and range, they would make up for it, under fair judgment, on single bird work and in their better behavior generally.

It will do a field trial dog no harm to have some lessons in quartering, as directed in the chapters on that kind of work. When the dog has been given a little of this kind of work and will find and handle birds well at short range, he can be pushed out with the aid of a horse until he acquire the field trial range. It is some trouble to get a dog to go out after he has been cramped in his range, but it can be done effectually, and when it is done in this way the dog becomes a reliable and consistent ranger. He does not simply race out like a wild half-broken young dog running on his nerve, but he goes about his work intelligently.

Although dogs are not required to retrieve, the dog intended for field trial work may be given plenty of work in dropping to shot and wing in his actual field work. Retrieving should not be taught a field trial dog in his first season at least, for nothing is to be gained by it, whereas the lesson will tend to take some of his spirit away. Except for this the field trial dog may be taught all that a well-broken dog should know.

In addition to this, special instructions should be given in ranging, both on the prairie and in quail shooting. If he is not disposed to go out quite as far as the breaker would like to have him go, he should be hunted for coveys exclusively, and if the handler will follow a particular course until the dog knows the location of all the coveys on the course the dog will be disposed to range more freely. When he goes wide enough the handler can then give him single bird work without fear of contracting his range.

The popular method among field trial handlers is to turn the young dog down and let him race; the handler being on horseback can generally keep track of the dog. Of course the dog will flush and chase, but he cannot go on at his racing gait very long before he will be inclined to steady down or come in to his handler. Eventually a covey of birds stops him and he gets a liking for pointing, although he will still continue to chase. The handler does not worry much, for sooner or later he can get to him on point and with the check cord and whip stop him from chasing. Then he can do something to make him steady when he gets him to backing well.

What the field trial handler does is to take his young dog out hunting at once and gradually

develop him into a field trial dog. The handler is careful not to allow his dog to become gun shy. When the dog is all fired up chasing birds he shoots his pistol. The dog is too much interested in birds to pay any attention to the noise and soon learns that the report of a pistol or gun is nothing to be afraid of. He gets his lessons in dropping while on game, and is taught to walk to heel while afield in actual hunting.

When the handler gets his young dog started he may take him out with two or three other dogs, each of which is learning something in his own way about birds and their habits.

This method is the shortest cut to the final development the field trial dog gets. It has its merits and its faults. One thing is certain, a sportsman's highly finished shooting dog cannot be developed and broken in this way, and it is equally certain that it is not the best method of developing the highest type of the field trial dog.

CHAPTER XXXV

EARLY FIELD TRIAL REQUIREMENTS

WHEN field trials were inaugurated in this country the theory prevailed that the dogs which were best adapted to the sportsman's use in ordinary shooting were the dogs which should receive the judges' awards. The field trial ideal and the sportsman's ideal were one and the same. This was the rule for about ten years. After that we began to talk about good field trial dogs and good shooting dogs. Just as though a dog could be a field trial winner and yet not as good a shooting dog as some of those dogs he had defeated in a public field trial. We have to-day good field trial dogs which are not good shooting dogs in the best sense of the term, and we have good shooting dogs which cannot win at field trials. It should also be said that many of our best field trial dogs are good dogs for the sportsman to use in an ordinary day's shooting.

In the early field trial a higher degree of break-

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In the early field trial a higher degree of break-

ing was demanded. Each quality, whether natural or artificial, was judged separately and a certain number of points of merit or demerit was scored to each dog's account. This was so before and after the heat system was introduced.

Under the head of pointing the dog was given a certain number of merit marks. The judges were instructed in the rules how the value was to be determined. When a dog pointed he was tested for stanchness. The handler was not allowed to speak to his dog on point, nor was he permitted to approach him until ordered to do so by the judges.

Once the handler went to his dog's side, the dog was held accountable for the point. That is, the handler must find birds to the point or the dog would be scored a false point. If the dog pointed and then moved on before the handler approached him he would receive no penalty for false pointing. But the approach of the handler was held to be equivalent to an order to go on. That would not save the penalty. The dog was permitted to draw toward the birds when the handler was at his side. This drawing on under such circumstances did not affect the dog's credit for the point, which was held to be established before the handler was directed to put up the birds. The dog was

required to be steady to wing and shot, and was not permitted to move about immediately after the birds were flushed. On occasion the judges would test their steadiness by requiring that they be held at "drop" until the judges gave the order to go on.

A point, a flush, or a false point under this method was clearly established. Dogs which pointed and then moved up close enough to the birds to cause them to flush, were penalized for the offense.

Dogs were not permitted to get out of hand as they are now. They might range wide, but a killing range was required. The dog was expected to come around on his beat and cross over to the other side of the field. Handlers were not permitted to hunt their dogs from horseback and chase after them. They were required to keep together as much as possible and travel at a moderate pace. Such a thing as a bolting dog was unheard of. Dogs might get lost on point but they were required to keep the course much more than they are to-day. It was easier for them to do so because they were hunted at a much closer range, and then there was a great deal more single bird work done under the old method. Dogs were given merit marks for range and were expected

to range wide or close as the necessity of the case demanded.

It was a great deal more work to break a dog for field trials in those days, and the winners were, as a rule, better broken than the field trial dogs of to-day. They were better single bird dogs, they were steadier to shot and wing and generally more obedient. They did less false pointing and pointed truer at the body scent.

The field trial dogs of to-day are much wider rangers and are better covey finders than the earlier field trial dogs. They hunt more independently and are more bird wise with respect to picking out the places likely to hold birds. Instead of hunting regularly to the gun, the present day dog has the handler hunt him a great deal.

The old plan had its good features and its faults. It was well to get a score on each particular quality in field trial work, but the rules were not flexible enough. The judges might give a dog a low score and yet prefer him to a dog which scored higher. The judge was a little too much of a machine. Now we have reached the other extreme. The judge practically makes his own rules and gives his awards to the dog he likes best. With the best of judges in the saddle this works out well, but the

average judge would do better if he were compelled to keep an accurate score of the work done by the dogs. Then he could tell better why he preferred one dog to another. With the number of points and the character of those points set down, with other merit marks made on the field and a score of errors, the judge could look his score over at night and place the dogs in their order of merit to his own satisfaction, better than he could if he relied solely on his memory and impressions to make up his judgment.

It is quite true that if a high premium were paid for breaking, as was done in the early field trials, the good breakers would get a higher rating for a dog of moderate natural quality than he deserved. But this is more apparent than real, for any breaker whose dog is fit to run in a trial could get all that might be given as merit marks for breaking. Provided, of course, these points were not carried to the extreme. All that would be necessary to improve on the breaking of dogs run in trials would be for the judges to demand that all dogs be well broken. As it is at present there is always a strong probability of a dog with the class that belongs to an unbroken dog, winning over really better dogs. If the dog has a lot of dash he may have the luck to run on a big covey

of birds in good scenting weather and get a point. If he is at all steady to wing, even though his handler is near enough to manage him, his class will carry him through.

And then there is the racing little dog which is lacking in intelligence and breaking. A little luck will carry him through, although he may do little bird work, or is not in any way tested respecting his intelligence. When such dogs are broken we may arrive at their true class.

At any rate the field trial dog should be as well broken as the dog which is used by the sportsman in every day shooting. Retrieving is properly barred at field trials inasmuch as it is an artificial quality. The poorest dog in a trial might be made the best retriever.

It is a question among field trial handlers whether or not they would do better with their dogs if they were better broken. Most of these think much breaking puts a handicap on the dog's work, in that the well-broken dog generally lacks the dash of the dog which is not restrained any more than is absolutely necessary. There are a few handlers, however, who have the knack of breaking their dogs well without taking much of the fire out of them or destroying their independence. It is altogether a question of knowing

how to develop and break the dog without breaking his spirit.

It is highly probable that better breaking will be demanded at field trials, for a tide is setting in against class without good manners.

CHAPTER XXXVI

GOOD AND BAD MANNERS

APART from the breaking proper a dog receives, so that he may be well managed in the field on game, there are a number of necessary accomplishments he should have, and there are a number of things which dogs do naturally of which they should be broken.

Jumping on the Handler

Dogs should not jump on their handler or any one else with their forefeet. Dogs are almost certain to get this disagreeable habit and make themselves a nuisance to their handler and to strangers. They should be broken of it, because it makes little difference to the dog whether or not his feet are muddy, or whether in his exuberance of good feeling he puts them on a white vest or a silk dress. When the dog jumps on his handler in his hunting suit, the handler does not mind it. But if he put his muddy paws on him when he is "all dressed up," it is a very different matter, and most likely the dog will be punished for his bad

manners. When he jumps on strangers and soils their clothes he is likely to get kicked. The dog never really understands all this abuse, because he has never been taught not to jump on people.

The dog can be broken of this disagreeable habit quickly and effectually in a very simple way, and all dogs should be so broken.

Call the dog to you and when he jumps up to put his paws on you, grab him securely by both feet. At the instant you get a firm hold of his paws trip him with your right foot. As your foot hits his hind legs lean a little to the right and let go his paws so that the dog will fall on his back. Make much of the dog, and in a spirit of playfulness induce him to jump up again, then throw him. The dog will not be cowed by this treatment, for it all appears to be play to him. Only he does not like the game and will not play after he has been dropped on his back a few times.

Perhaps the next day the dog will so far forget himself as to jump up when asked, but after he has been flopped on his back he will have a better memory about the game of jumping up. After a very few lessons it will be found almost impossible to induce the dog to put his paws on any one. He may jump up but he will be careful to keep his paws off. When he jumps up but does not allow

his paws to touch you, he is not to be thrown. The lesson is usually well remembered.

Chickens and Eggs

Nearly every one who has anything to do with young setters or pointers has been annoyed at having their dog kill chickens and steal eggs. When in the country where chickens run at large, it is very disagreeable to have one's dog kill the farmers' chickens, or pull their feathers out. Most setters and pointers have to be broken of the habit. The most effective plan, and the cheapest in the end, is to take the chicken the dog has killed and thrash the dog with it about the head. All the while the dog is being thrashed the breaker is to preserve a good feeling and talk pleasantly to the dog. The chicken may be laid away for a half hour and then calling the dog to him, a severe thrashing may be administered by the breaker. This makes a great impression on the dog and gives him such a dislike for chickens he will give them a wide berth.

The suck-egg dog is a great nuisance. He becomes very expert in locating hens' nests and stealing eggs. A good plan is to force an egg into his mouth that is uncomfortably warm and then give him another that has been charged with cayenne pepper. An egg so charged may be left where he

can readily find it. One such egg often cures the dog of his bad habit.

Chasing Rabbits

Very few young dogs can resist the temptation to chase a rabbit that hops out of his form in plain view. The habit of chasing rabbits sometimes becomes very bad, and in a locality where they are plentiful the dog is frequently on the trail of a rabbit when he should be hunting birds. The cure for this evil is very simple. The first rabbit the dog starts should be shot by the handler, and without saying a word to the dog the handler should pick it up and thrash the dog with it about the head. On the next occasion of the dog's chasing the handler will endeavor again to kill the rabbit and as before give the dog a good thrashing with it about the head. Nothing whatever is to be said to the dog. After a few treatments of this kind the dog will shy off to one side when he either scents or sees a rabbit. He becomes thoroughly rabbit-shy.

Following a Wagon

When going afield with a wagon the sportsman has his dogs ride, as he does not wish to tire them by having them follow a wagon. But there are times when the sportsman drives when he is not going shooting and often he likes to have the company

of his dog. If the dog follows the wagon by running out to either side or ahead he will be likely to get into a quarrel with most of the dogs he meets on the road. This is annoying and sometimes dangerous to the dog's life or limbs. All of which may be avoided if the dog is taught to run under the wagon. Once he becomes expert in dodging out and back under the wagon again he can always run out of harm's way when set upon by strange dogs. The stranger dog makes a bad showing trying to go under a wagon for a fight, whereas the dog which is accustomed to running under a wagon feels quite at home there and can move about with the greatest freedom.

To teach the dog to run under a wagon, fasten him to the hind-axle with a good chain. He should be taken up short and so fastened that he will not be in danger of getting into the wheels. The horse should be driven in a walk until the dog gets the idea of keeping his place. Then he should be hitched a little further forward so he will run under the middle of the wagon or buggy. Care should be taken not to hurt the dog, when the horse is first made to move at a slow trot. After a few trials the chain may be dispensed with and the dog forced with the whip to keep his place under the wagon. Whenever the dog runs out he should

be driven back with the crack of the whip. In a short time he will learn to take his place when ordered to go under the wagon.

There is one great objection to having dogs run under a wagon, and that is, they catch much of the dust the horse kicks up. On dusty roads the dog is better off in the wagon. But where the roads are free from dust a run under the wagon will do the dog no harm.

Jumping into a Wagon

Some dogs always make a bad mess of getting into a wagon. In fact most dogs do which have not had special training for this work. It usually happens that the dog is put into the wagon in a hurry and does not learn the knack of getting in, just because the handler does not take a little time to teach him. At odd times, when the handler is in no particular hurry and there is nothing to take the dog's mind from the lesson, he should be schooled in jumping. By getting a good start and the right kind of experience the dog will learn to jump clean instead of trying to scramble or crawl into the wagon. The dog should first have some jumping lessons at home. He can be practiced at jumping up on an elevated platform, a box or any other suitable object. The dog should be dropped near the object on which he is to jump,

and when he hears his name he should respond by jumping. The dog will need some assistance at first, in the way of directions. About all the handler need do is to lay his hands on the platform and say, Dash! When the dog springs up the handler should be prepared to put his hands on his haunches and help him if necessary. In a short time the dog will like the work and will lie still waiting for the order. The first work should be made easy for the dog, but the height of the jump should be increased as the dog becomes accustomed to the work. Finally the dog should be dropped back a few paces from the platform so that he may take the running jump. When he is first tried at jumping into the wagon he will probably need a little assistance. That is, the handler should be prepared to put his hands on the dog's haunches if necessary when he falls a little short of a clean jump. With a little practice the dog will be able to take a running jump at the wagon when ordered, and get in without any fuss. A brace of dogs can be practiced at this work to good advantage. It has a good general effect besides its special value. The brace should be dropped at the platform, a check cord being put on each. When the handler says Dash! that dog previously trained to the work alone will jump. So will his brace-mate.

When the brace-mate starts he is to be checked with the line, but is not to be scolded. He will soon learn that the order Dash! means for him to lie still. The same process must be followed with the other dog. The dog which has been chided for jumping at the order for the other dog to jump will not be disposed to jump when his name is called. A little coaching will help him out of his difficulty. The brace should be worked at this a great deal singly. Dash will learn in this way that he is to jump on hearing his name, and after being checked for jumping at hearing his brace-mate's name he will soon become wise enough to jump at hearing one name and lie still when he hears the other name. When both dogs are perfected in this lesson they will drop to order several paces from the wagon and get in singly to order. This is much neater and better in every way than for both to attempt to scramble into the wagon at the same time.

Kennel Manners

There is a great difference in the behavior of dogs in their kennel. It all reflects the management of the handler. When you go into some kennels at feeding time the dogs are jumping over each other and quarreling about their food, the handler is scolding and slashing with his whip. All is bed-

lam. At another kennel the dogs stand off quietly at a respectful distance and come to their food when called. There is no snapping or snarling. The handler has little to say. When he does speak it is in a calm, low tone. His dogs have been well brought up. When he has one that violates his rules of conduct he proceeds at once to punish him for his fault, and treats him with special kindness for his good behavior. He is always kind, yet positive with his dogs. As fast as they break one of the rules he sees to it at once that they are put back on their good behavior. When the good handler wants a particular dog from the kennel he does not have a fight getting him. When he opens the gate all the dogs stand back, for they have learned the folly of crowding on the gate when it is opened. The handler calls the dog he wants and that dog runs out. It is all a mere matter of simple discipline; any one can have well-behaved dogs in their kennel or kennel-yard if they will take the pains to have them so.

House Manners

Many enthusiastic sportsmen have such a high regard for their setter or pointer that they give the dog the run of the house. If the sportsman and his family are satisfied to have the dog soil the bed or chairs

with his muddy feet, no one has a right to complain. But the sportsman has occasion to go into the country and may desire to have the dog in a stranger's house. The stranger, not having such an intense liking for dogs as the sportsman, will object to the dog's going into his best room or making himself very much at home in his house. And there the sportsman with his touch of selfishness gets angry. It is all very well for us to like our dogs and put up with their shortcomings, but we have no right to impose our likes upon others. The good dog should have his place in the house and that place should be in the kitchen.

It is all a matter of teaching the dog to know his place. In the kitchen he can do little or no harm, and if pains be taken to make the dog understand he is not to cross the kitchen threshold, he will learn his place and be so well satisfied with it that the dining-room door may be left open without fear of the dog's entering the forbidden room. There is no special instruction necessary. When the dog gets into any other room but the kitchen he should be driven back. It will take him but a short time to learn his place, and once he learns it thoroughly he will not be disposed to break the rule imposed upon him. It is a comfort to go

shooting with a dog which has good house manners, for no one will object to his being left in the kitchen for a time to dry out and rest after his work in the field.

Some dogs that are allowed the run of the kitchen get the bad habit of lying with their head under the stove. Besides being in the cook's way it does them no good to bake their head by the hour. If switched for the fault they return to the stove, and to break them of the habit with the whip would mean such severe treatment they would be cowed as a result. A very simple and effective way to break the dog of this habit is to spatter a little water on top of the stove so that a few hot drops will fall on the dog. Of course the dog is not to be scalded or seriously hurt. Three or four drops of hot water spattering from the top of the stove will be sufficient to make the dog jump and run. No word is to be spoken to the dog, and no particular attention paid to him. It will strike him at first as an accident not likely to happen again, and he will soon return to his warm berth. As soon as he gets well settled for a doze he should be given another small dose of the water cure. If the handler go quietly away from the stove and not even look at the dog, the dog will stand off, look at the stove and try to figure out how it all happened. He will

not be able to understand it. But he will resolve to keep away from that stove. It is not the hurt he gets so much as it is the keenness and suddenness of it all, coming upon him while he is enjoying his doze.

CHAPTER XXXVII

COST OF BREAKING

HOW much will it cost to break a dog according to directions herein set forth?

That depends upon the value the breaker sets upon his time and other conditions.

Under favorable circumstances a good breaker may turn out ten well-broken dogs in a year. If he gets one hundred and fifty dollars for each dog he will have about one thousand dollars net for his year's work, as his expenses and losses will eat up the other five hundred dollars. The cost of boarding ten dogs is quite an item. Then there are such expenses as medicine and kennel utensils. Then there is the cost of keeping a horse, for in a good quail country it will pay the breaker to keep a horse for use in his kennel work and breaking.

A great many handlers develop as many as fifteen dogs a year. To do this they must live in a good country for breaking and have at least a small place, in the country, where they will have plenty of kennel room for the dogs, and be able to

From a painting by Edmund H. Osthaus.

Anxious to Go.

get to the hunting field quickly. With a good horse a breaker can, at various stages of the dogs' development, turn down a half dozen at one time. They may run riot, but they get some knowledge of birds and in other ways help along their own development. Where a breaker undertakes to turn out a large number of dogs each year at one hundred dollars each, he is forced to take the shortest cuts when working toward completing their education. He has little time for any more yard breaking than is absolutely necessary. He cannot afford to put all the preliminary work and finishing touches needed for the making of a highly broken dog. He must be satisfied to have his dog bird-wise, stanch, a good ranger and fairly obedient. He cannot afford to do more than this at the regulation price of one hundred dollars.

It can be made to appear on paper that a breaker can turn out two batches of ten dogs each year at a cost in expenses of about five hundred dollars, but if he breaks his dogs fairly well and gives them good care he will fall short in his receipts and overrun the estimated expenses. Some dogs develop very fast and need little attention for their faults. The breaker makes a good shooting dog of one of this kind at a small cost of energy and time. Then others develop slowly and pick up all the faults

possible. Others are taken sick and cannot be broken. Then there are others which promise well but are worthless in the end. All these things happen regularly in the course of the breaker's career. Some years the luck of the business is better than others. In the end it averages up much below the calculations the breaker may make on paper. The man who can turn out fifteen hundred dollars worth of breaking, year in and year out, will get about all there is to be gotten out of the business of dog breaking, and this for a man living on a small place in the country is pretty fair business.

The professional field trial handler looks to his winning at field trials to piece out his revenue from breaking proper. He has a large string of young dogs for which he gets one hundred dollars each as a breaking fee. He will usually have two good puppies in his string fit to win something in the various field trial Derbies in which they are entered. One half or the whole of the winning may go to the handler. Then he will have two or more good aged dogs for which he will get a fee and a part of what they may win in the trials. To attend the trials is a big expense to the handler, but before the end of the long field trial circuit is reached he is likely to have a balance of a few

hundred dollars in payment for his field trial work. All the time he is developing his dogs for which he gets the regular breaker's fee.

It takes a man of considerable natural ability and tireless energy to make a successful field trial handler, and those who are best paid get none too much for their services. Fault is often found with the field trial handler by those who need censure themselves. As a rule the field trial handlers earn all they get in money and good wishes.

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